## COMPUTERWORLD

## Unix developers

#### Mainframe costs remain a barrier

By Craig Stedman

IBM is sending an SOS to Unix software vendors as it struggles to turn the mainframe into a elient/server platform. But so far, the return answer has been a blunt one: Give us a break.

As in price break.

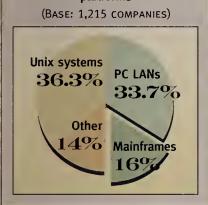
Joining users in the chorus calling for lower mainframe eomputing eosts, Unix software developers said the expense of developing MVS applications must be sharply re-

duced to make the System/390 environment more appealing.

#### Percentage of mission-critical applications developed for different

platforms

Third class



Source: The Standish Group International, Inc., Dennis, Mass.

A special few In an attempt to re-

spond, IBM will start giving or loaning new board-level System/ 390 processors bundled with PC servers to "a limited number of very critical vendors" during the first half of 1995, according to industry sources. Not-so-lucky developers will offered leases on the board, which can be

used to write mainframe applications at a PC or workstation, the sources added.

Unix system vendors such as Hewlett-Paekard Co. routinely give away development machines. But free mainframes are a rare breed, and buying or leasing time on a System/390 remains a luxury for many software companies,

IBM, page 121

## IBM romances NetWare 4.1 ships

By Laura Di Dio

Forget detente.

The formal launch of NetWare 4.1 this week will leave Novell, Inc. and Microsoft Corp. poised for allout trench warfare as Novell tries to beat back the challenge from Windows NT Server 3.5.

At stake are the hearts, minds and purchase orders of an installed base of 3 million NetWare 3.x users who now have two robust and technically elegant network operating systems to choose from as they plot their upgrade path.

For many users—even the most satisfied NetWare stalwarts ehoosing between NetWare 4.1 and

Which of the following are you more likely to choose as the basis for your long-term corporate networking strategy?

WINDOWS NT SERVER 20%

NOVELL'S NETWARE 4.1 OR LATER

MICROSOFT'S

80%

BANYAN'S ENTERPRISE NETWORK SERVICES

1%

OTHER

Base: 100 Microsoft and Novell users (multiple responses allowed)

Source: Computerworld survey

NT Server 3.5 will be tough.

Ed Wilk, network manager at WHDH-TV, a longtime NetWare shop in Boston, summed up the dilemma confronting users in the network operating systems wars. Like many of his peers, he said he loves the new features and pricing structure of NetWare 4.1.

Still, "I'd be a fool to ignore NT Server 3.5 because Microsoft is so pervasive in the industry," Wilk said. "We've tested NT Server and have found it to be technically very good. [But] because we run customized DOS-based applications and not Windows, we'll most likely stick with NetWare."

NetWare, page 15

## Intel policy incites user threats

By Jaikumar Vijayan

User anger continued to mount last week as Intel Corp. steadfastly stuck to its heavily eriticized policy of replacing buggy Pentium chips on a case-by-case basis.

By last week, the Internet, which has become a de facto barometer on the issue, was abuzz with talk of users returning flawed systems. Also raised was the possibility that a few users would file class-action lawsuits if Intel does not redress the situation — and quickly.

Meanwhile, Intel last week said it would delay announcing its much-publicized P24T Pentium Overdrive processor due to a chip flaw (see story, page 8).

In addition to the general outrage over Intel's Intel, page 121 Kills bugs dead

The Pentium bug has prompted two third-party vendors to step forward with software fixes

VENDOR

The Mathworks Natick, Mass.

Compaq Computer Corp.

Houston

APPROACH

Mathworks' software looks for particular bit patterns that indicate errors in the Pentium's division operation and recalculates if necessary. The patch is currently available only for Mathworks' Matlab users.

Compag's software disables Pentium's floating-point units and uses available software numerics to divide. This approach is likely to result in significant performance hits.

the federal government's Data

Eneryption Standard algo-

rithm to protect the integrity

and confidentiality of fund

transfers totaling some \$2.3

trillion a day worldwide. But

cryptography experts say that

sooner or later, eriminals

armed with very powerful com-

puters will be able to unseram-

#### Users await Mail 3.2 server fix

By Suruchi Mohan

With ship dates for Microsoft Corp.'s Exchange server officially slipping to midsummer 1995, some users and analysts are growing impatient with the eompany's inability to deliver on its promises.

Some analysts last week said they seriously doubt the messaging server software will be ready by mid-1995. In fact, most said they don't think it will be ready for a late 1995 delivery date, either. Users, meanwhile, are beginning to question how much longer they will have to wait for Exchange as the solution to their woes with Microsoft Mail 3.2.

Mail 3.2, page 121

The industry is being pushed on one side by users and vendors urging the upgrade of its eryptographic systems. Leaning in on the other side is the federal government, which hopes to influence the future of cryptography for defense and law enforcement reasons.

U.S. banks and brokerage houses now use

Data encryption

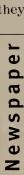
#### Security upgrade rattles banking industry

By Gary H. Anthes

Fearing that time is running out on the security of a widely used data encryption method, financial institutions are looking for a replacement. But they face a host of teehnieal, political and ceonomic roadblocks.

> blc DES-enerypted data. Some banks feel the answer is to migrate to "triple-DES," which applies the same algorithm three times and doubles the encryption-key length, making enerypted data vastly more difficult to decipher.

Security, page 28





## What's Inside

## Pain brings gain

PRODUCT TEST-DRIVE The transition to Windows 95 won't be easy, but it promises to be worthwhile, particularly for IS shops. A review of a Windows 95 beta version shows that the banishment of DOS is only the first in a string of benefits that IS staffs will see in Microsoft's replacement for Windows 3.1. See page 39

#### **NEWS**

- Sneak peeks at a beta version of Microsoft's SQL Server 95 database show that work remains to put the product on par with more mature Oracle and Sybase databases. Page 4
- ■Internet address translation products may well ease the current shortage of addresses.
- ■Sun Microsystems is ready and able but not willing — to ship Microsoft's Windows NT on its 64-bit UltraSPARC systems. Page 7
- ■Intel's P6 will not be rushed to market ahead of schedule despite the challenge of RISC server makers intent on dominating the server side of client/serversystems. Page 10
- ■D&B Software plans to adjust costs for client/server migration services. Page 12
- Users of Novell's NetWare 4.1 say it does what it's supposed to and without migration hassles. Page 14
- ■By adding SNMP support to its CA-Unicenter systems management software, Computer Associates tightens integration with network management products. Page 16

#### **DESKTOP COMPUTING**

■With three months of experience, users give Apple's System 7.5 mixed reviews, applauding ease-of-use advancements but knocking its and communications features. graphies Page 41

#### **WORKGROUP COMPUTING**

Sun Microsystems' dominance of the SPARCcompatible marketplace may eost it the loyalty of some of its SPARC elone makers. Page 47

#### **ENTERPRISE NETWORKING**

■ Early users of Microsoft's Systems Management Server, formerly called Hermes, say they line analytical processing. Page 69 are impressed. Page 57

#### LARGE SYSTEMS

■ Following the high-profile failures of two massively parallel processing rivals this year, the survivors are taking different paths into commercial markets. Page 69

#### APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Symantee upgrades Enterprise Developer

with performance boosts and additional tools. Page 77

#### **MANAGEMENT**

■Teeh-ignorant real estate agents roasting on an open fire is one angry man's idea of holiday eheer. Page 91

#### IN DEPTH

■Is the Macintosh dead for business? A Macintosh proponent says the PowerPC ehip and multimedia features make the Maeintosh a powerful eorporate tool. Not so, says one PC backer, who elaims it is expensive and lacks applications. Page 96

#### **CAREERS**

■ IS's role in managing electronic data interchange partnerships may be limited, but three positions offer opportunity to gain experience. Page 100

#### **MARKETPLACE**

■Monitoring users' personal information managers has never been a high priority, but standardization is becoming more widespread. Page 109

#### **COMMENTARY**

- **Charles Babcock** applauds Apple for finally deciding not to go it alone. Page 8
- ■Bill Laberis forwards an IS wish list to the big guy from the North Pole. Page 36
- ■Ted Lewis sees an IS field of dreams in Russia. Page 37
- ■Max Hopper says client/server technology should let you adapt the technology to the way people work, not force people to adapt to the technology. Page 37
- ■Rich Finkelstein says relational database management systems are the wrong road to on-

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#### **Executive Briefing**

Novell's NetWare 4.1 is finally shipping — just in time to get into a full-blown marketing battle with Microsoft's NT Server. Both companies are taking the gloves off, and the fight promises to get ugly. Net-Ware 4.1 delivers seven network services — distributed directory services, messaging, routing, network management, file and print services and security — fully integrated into the core network operating system. And its price is lower than that of previous 4.x versions. But Microsoft counters that its solution is still cheaper and provides everything Novell's does in addition to a general-purpose server and applications. Page 1. Firing Line interviews reveal that early users are pleased with NetWare 4.1. Page 14. Analysts say the new NetWare release may be slow to take off in terms of sales. Page 57

The delivery date for Microsoft's Exchange server is slipping—it's now set for midsummer 1995—and some users and analysts are getting antsy, questioning the company's ability to deliver even on that goal. goal. Some users say they may not wait for the mail system. Page 1

If you think 1994 was a disappointing year for wireless developments, you may really hate 1995. The Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) network was not implemented during the past year because vendors stumbled over their inexperience and need to integrate services. Paying customers are finally starting to show up for CDPD, but implementations will take at least a year. Page 4

There isn't a whole lot of self-congratulation going on. While a small amount of application development projects succeed, most either fall through, come in late or come in over budget, according to a study by the Standish Group. On the bright side, 1S executives say the failure rate is lower than it was five to 10 years ago. Page 20

IS must help users imagine what's possible with new technologies. NationsBank, Domecq Importers and BSG Corp. each found a way to bridge the communications gap that often plagues 1S and users in a systems development project. Page 84

On site this week: Some leading-edge users push the limits of Powersoft's PowerBuilder by using it with tools that ereate a middle tier to manage transactions. Page 77

#### The 5th Wave by Rich Tennant

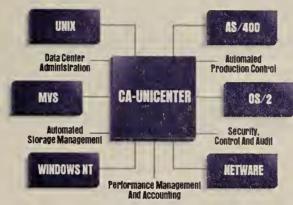




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On A Common GUI
Interface That
Makes It Easier
To Use, Reduce
Training Costs
And Boost
Productivity.

2. Protect All Your Data
With Bulletproot Security
Software That Supports
Every Platform And
Operating System
Across Your Entire
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## Wireless falls short; future looks iffy

**EXPOSITION & CONFERENCE** 

By Michael Fitzgerald WASHINGTON

Users with wireless on their wish lists will get only coal this Christmas and very possibly next Christmas as well.

The anticipated Year of Wireless never came to be partly because the expected Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) network was not implemented and vendors stumbled over their inexperience and need to integrate product services.

Next year also looks bleak, according to analysts, who said a nationwide CDPD network will not be up until mid-year. As a result, the market simply will not have enough time to run up the learning curve.

#### **User needs**

Users have indicated that they would very much like to have a low-cost, easy-to-develop-for network available and have expressed frustration at the lack of good wireless services. This latest news could slow some users' plans.

For instance, Visa International, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif., said last week it will begin testing Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems' regional CDPD network in the

first quarter of next year for a wireless credit-card verification application.

"We're excited about wireless and think it gives us the potential for opening up new markets" such as for taxi drivers or delivery vehicles, said Dennis Moser, a senior vice president at Visa. But Moser also said he would prefer to roll out his application across a nationwide network rather than region by region.

Events at last week's tepid Wireless

Datacomm show provided a suitable backdrop for this grim forecast.

For example, Bell Atlantic Mobile announced that the Groton, Conn., police department had become its first paying eustomer for CDPD and that Bell Atlantic had achieved interoperabil-

ity with Ameritech Corp.'s CDPD network in Chieago. Bell Atlantie Mobile also said it had ereated Greenhouse, a program to eneourage the growth of wireless data applications.

Still, "I wouldn't say we'll be built out by the end of 1995," said Michael Franklin, director of product management at Bell Atlantie Mobile. Franklin also said the company does not intend to pursue a "build it and they will come" strategy for its CDPD network. Instead, it will opt to let customer demand push its network goals, and it will reassess its investment at certain points. But that strategy, implemented by Metricom, Inc. in Los Gatos, Calif., for its wireless network Ricochet, has not worked well.

Other vendors contacted reaffirmed

eommitments to build out the CDPD network, but analysts said the customer issue could greatly slow CDPD deployment.

"If eustomers don't come, [vendors] won't deploy the network," which could lead to a chicken-and-egg secnario for the CDPD market,

said Roberta Wiggins, an analyst at the The Yankee Group in Boston. She said this could push users to opt for circuitswitched cellular technology rather than CDPD.

Most analysts agree that users should not expect to roll out broad, horizontal wireless data applications based on CDPD next year, although the technology may work well for vertical applications.

Other events at Wireless Datacomm included the following:

• Metricom publicly discussed its problems with its wireless network, Ricochet. Newly named Executive Vice President Don Wood said the company has delayed deploying its network because of a move to 100-KHz performance. He also outlined a more aggressive rollout plan for 1996, rather than the build-to-customerdemand strategy Metricom said it would follow earlier this year. That plan has essentially failed.

Wood said Metrieom will finish deploying in 1995 its network, now in beta testing in Silicon Valley, Calif., and Bellevue and Redmond, Wash. It will build out to as many as four other eities — Washington, Boston, Chicago and Houston — regardless of user interest, Wood said.

• Aironet Wireless Communications, Inc. in Needham, Mass., announced its see-ond-generation wireless access device, said to advance wireless LANs. Aironet's ArLAN Models 630 and 640 use spread-spectrum technology to achieve data speeds of 2M bit/sec. Pricing starts at \$1,795 for a 900-MHz radio that can support up to 2,048 users.

## SQL Server 95 gets mixed reviews

Beta trails Unix databases technologically but competes in price

**New Year's resolutions** 

Although Microsoft

"Lublish and

and resturt.

integrity.

a ship date

promises several new

features for its SQL Server 95 database, officials refuse to set

subscribe" replication.

Graphical monitoring utilities.

Decluration referential

Backward und forwurd

lutomated backup

scrolling cursors.

By Kim S. Nash

Sneak peeks at a beta-version of Microsoft Corp.'s SQL Server 95 database at DB/Expo'94 here last week revealed that it is not yet on par with more mature Oraele Corp. and Sybase, Inc. databases.

Yet while Microsoft works to eatch up teehnologically with its Unix rivals, the company will likely continue to best those competitors on price, according to users and analysts.

"Quality doesn't always win—which is not to say that Oracle or Sybase is the epitome of quality. But Microsoft will certainly push the pricing edge against them very hard," said Richard Finkelstein, an analyst at Performance Computing, lue. in Chicago.

The first release of SQL Server 95 has a few notable holes. For example, while Sybase offers full replication to and from several relational and nonrelational databases, that capability will be missing in the initial release of SQL Server 95, confirmed Gary Voth, senior product manager for corporate and network systems at Microsoft.

Right now, SQL Server 95 can replicate data only to other Microsoft databases. Users who want to

bring any other system into the picture must do so through gateway products supporting Open Database Connectivity interfaces, Voth said. He added that direct replication to databases other than Microsoft's databases is "something we are working on." He deelined to estimate when the function might appear.

In fact, Voth and other Microsoft officials have steadfastly refused to say when users can expect general availability of SQL Server 95, other than to say it is due next year. It is in beta testing at 125 sites, Voth said

On the plus side, SQL Server will come with faney graphical administration utilities designed to monitor remote databases from one console. By comparison, Oracle 7 eannot do the same, although Oracle

said it plans to offer such an option in the future.

SQL Server 95 also contains a job scheduling feature that lets database administrators queue up several small tasks to be carried out together at a specified time.

#### **Keeping with Microsoft**

Some users are convinced they cannot go wrong by using Microsoft applications on both the desktop and server levels. The New England, a Boston-based finance and insurance firm, plans to upgrade to SQL Server 95 "as soon as it comes out," said Howard Lipsky, assistant vice president of technological support and research. He also liked the tight integration of SQL Server with Microsoft's Windows NT.

The firm recently migrated from an OS/2- to Windows NT-based version of Microsoft SQL Server in its 82 offices nationwide. "We know what Microsoft says about NT being scalable, and we believe it," Lipsky said

## Powersoft users reassured about Watcom's life span

By Kim S. Nash

Powersoft Corp. users ean take comfort that their Watcom database will not fall by the wayside if Sybase, Inc.'s proposed \$900 million buyout of Powersoft is approved.

During a speech here at last week's DB/Expo '94 conference, Bob Epstein, executive vice president at Sybase, described a PC-to-enterprise database strategy that clearly includes Wateom.

After the two companies announced merger plans last month, users had worried that Powersoft's single-user Watcom database would be killed in favor of a low-end version of Sybase's SQL Server.

Apparently not, because at the show, users also got a peck at a version of the Wateom database supporting Transact-SQL, Sybase's brand of structured query language. A production edition is due to ship next year, Watcom sources said. Support for Oracle Corp.'s PL/SQL "is being examined," but Watcom has no formal plans yet to support the rival language, they said.

Other announcements at DB/Expo include the following:

- Object-relational database maker Illustra Information Technologies, Inc. announced a pact with Intel Corp. to jointly build a high-performance version of Illustra's product for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT on Pentium boxes. Due to ship in August 1995, the database would target users creating multimedia and on-line applications.
- For users struggling to move data housed in nonrelational mainframe databases, Micro Data Base Systems, Inc. in Chicago unveiled Titanium, a repository designed to store hierarchical, relational, object and other types of data simultaneously.
- IBM announced a bundle of its SP2 massively parallel processing (MPP) hardware with an MPP version of DB2 aimed at data warehousing users. The so-called Powerquery package is slated to ship by mid-1995, after parallel DB2 finishes beta testing. Prices were not available, IBM said.

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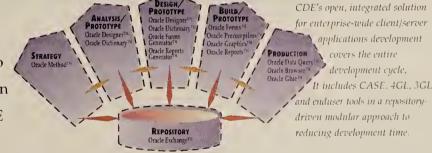
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## Users seek mailboxes

#### Address translators offer solution for locked-out Internet surfers

By Steve Moore

Frustrated by a worsening shortage of Internet addresses and aware that it will be several years before a next-generation version of the Internet Protocol begins to alleviate that shortage, network managers are hunting for interim solutions.

Unable to get large Class A or Class B addresses, some users have sought to aggregate smaller, Class C addresses. Others have performed IP address translations through Unix-based proxy servers that require software on each client machine. But these solutions have proved complex, time-consuming and expensive to implement

Now, however, some relief is in sight in the form of address translators that some analysts say could significantly delay the adoption of the next-generation IP, even though it will use 16-byte addresses rather than the 4-byte addresses that limit the scope of the cur-

rent version of IP.

At last week's Fall Internet World '94 conference in Washington, Network Translation, Inc. introduced the first commercial address translation product, the Private Internet Exchange (PIX). The PIX device sits between a user's private network and the Internet, translating large numbers of purely internal addresses to smaller numbers of shared, registered IP addresses.

"PIX has saved us from converting all our illegal, [unregistered] IP addressing to legal addressing," said Alan Helbush, staff systems administrator at KLA Instruments Corp. in San Jose, Calif. "A lot of addresses are burned into ROM, so it would take a huge time investment to change our addressing."

"This type of product will definitely find a market," said Dave Passmore, a principal consultant at Decisis, Inc. in Herndon, Va. "The alternative is to roll your own code on a Unix box or try to adapt

Better watch out

Security flaws exist in the

following SCO products:

Unix System V/386 Release 3.2 Versions

Open Server Network System Release 3.0

Open Server Enterprise System Release 3.0

Open Desktop Lite Release 3.0

Open Desktop Release 3.0 and 2.0

4.0, 4.1 and 4.2

an Internet firewall product that was not really designed for address translation."

Before KLA Instruments became a PIX beta site, Helbush said, "we had a proxy server that was good for Unix users. But it left out our PC and Macintosh users so they couldn't share in the wealth of the Internet."

With PIX, "a PC or Mac can use Mosaic and be just as much a citizen of the Internet as Unix users," said Network Translation President John Mayes.

#### Why bother upgrading?

The emergence of address translation products such as PIX may leave many users with little incentive to adopt the next-generation IP once it becomes available. "There is really no assurance that [the next-generation IP] will ever be implemented broadly because it represents a major functional transition for TCP/IP software," said Tom Nolle, president of CIMI Corp. in Voorhees, N.J.

## Security the star at Internet show

By Ellis Booker
WASHINGTON

■ What with the crowds, the lack of aisle markers and general disorganization, it was a challenge even finding the 115 exhibits at last week's Internet World in Washington.

Then again, it all seemed so familiar. A crowded, chaotic, exciting place—just like the Internet today.

Attendance at the three-day Fall Internet World '94 exploded to 11,000, up from 4,000 attendees and 40 exhibitors last year, according to show organizer Mecklermedia Corp. in Westport, Conn.

"It's indicative of the broadening acceptance and use of the Internet," said Joel Maloff, an Internet consultant in Dexter, Mich. Maloff's revenue study of Internet access providers underscored this growth. "Last March, the annualized revenue total was just under \$50 million, and by March of this year it was \$120 million," he said.

For Tom Smith, manager of data communications at Reynolds Metals Co. in Richmond, Va., the Internet is already a critical part of his company's research and engineering activities.

"It's used by our researchers and engineers to access high-speed computing facilities. ... and we're evaluating using [the Internet] for electronic data interchange,"

But Smith repeated the oft-heard concern that without secure software, the Internet's commercial viability will continue to be questionable.

#### Securing the hatches

In an apparent answer, the major product news from Internet World centered on a number of software vendors hawking browsers to implement the so-called Sccure HyperText Transmission Protocol (HTTP) standard early next year.

For example, Terisa Systems, Inc. in Menlo Park, Calif., announced several licensees for its Secure HTTP tool kits priced at \$3,000. Secure HTTP provides transaction security over open networks through the public key cryptography technology developed by RSA Data Security, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif.

Michael Curry, vice president of new media at Book-ofthe-Month Club, Inc., said he thinks Internet client software capable of supporting secure credit-card transactions is still six months to a year away.

But he said the information systems group at parent company Time Warner, Inc. is already at work on business systems for Book-of-the-Month Club's 10 clubs and that the book club would have "a significant presence on the Web in '95." Time Warner's corporate World-Wide Web site, dubbed Pathfinder, has been up for about a month.

#### **Making transactions safer**

Other content providers further along than Book-of-the-Month Club are similarly preparing secure transaction software to enable the selling of services across the Internet.

Jeff Spirer, director of business development at the Internet Shopping Division of Home Shopping Network in Menlo Park, Calif., said his company is working with browser vendor Netscape Communications Corp. to support credit-card payments over the Internet. That feature, he said, will be available within two to three months.

Overall, the rapid growth and accelerating commercialization of the Internet is pressuring a wider spectrum of companies. Businesses "have to develop a corporate Web presence and understand that the under-40 consumers will expect to find one," said Mark Heller, president of The Intermark Group Ltd. in Potomac, Md. He stressed that an IS organization unwilling to be a vanguard in this area is in danger of becoming "the tail wagged by the dog."

## SCO patches five Unix security holes

By Jean S. Bozman and Gary H. Anthes

The Santa Cruz Operation (SCO) last week alerted its users about several security holes in the SCO Unix operating system and urged them to apply the fixes it is providing.

In an alert sent over the Internet, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh forwarded a notice from SCO. The notice informed users about binary "patches" available to fix flaws in five Unix programs: at(C), login(M), prwarn(C), sade(ADM) and pt\_elmod.

Any user with an account on the system could obtain

unauthorized root access to the system by exploiting any of the programs cited, the warning said. "SCO urges you lo act on this information as soon as possible," the CERT said.

#### Correction

Due to a printer error, a pie chart segment with the Page 1 story "Industry pressures PC leaders," was left blank last week. The segment should have read, "Not at all concerned — 15%." In keeping with standard security policy, neither the CERT nor SCO would provide details about how the security vulnerabilities could be exploited.

Bob Kostosky, director of store technology at \$4 billion Rite-Aid Corp., said he was unaware of any security problems. "I don't know anything about that at all," said Kostosky, who managed a national rollout of 2,700 SCO Unix store systems this year.

John Payne, director of point-of-sale technology at \$2 billion Pizza Hut, Inc. in Wichita, Kan., was notified about a potential security problem by a SCO account

manager. But Payne said he was not concerned.

Pizza Hut uses SCO Unix on PCs at more than 4,000 stores worldwide, but they communicate through a private network via a dialup modem. "We don't use the Internet at all for any kind of transmission like that or we'd be more concerned," he explained.

Recently, however, Pizza Hut began a test to see if customers could order piz-

zas via the Internet, a project that will be expanded next year. "We have some general concerns about the Internet because of security in general," Payne said. "Because our systems sit off to the side and are not integrally tied into it, we've taken what we think are proper and prudent security precautions."

The SCO software patches are available by the following means:

- Anonymous file transfer protocol (FTP) at ftp.sco. com (login name; ftp; password: your electronic-mail address).
- FTP via the World-Wide Web at ftp://www.sco.com.
- Interactive download from the SCO Online Support bulletin board.

Users can contact SCO via the Internet at support@sco.com or by ealling (800) 347-4381.

## Sun UltraSPARC chip can run NT — but won't

By Jean S. Bozman SANJOSE, CALIF

Sun Microsystems, Inc. is ready and able - but not quite willing - to ship Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT on its 64-bit UltraSPARC systems next year. The UltraSPARC chip, due to ship in the third quarter, will support NT if Sun's chip customers decide to use it.

Sun executives last week said users are far more interested in getting perfor-

**Pedal to** the metal

Sun's 64-bit UltraSPARC chip will put the company back in a speed race with IBM and HP, analysts said. The current SuperSPARC is roughly as fast as Intel Corp.'s Pentium chip.

mance from UltraSPARC, a true 64-bit chip that is two to three times faster than the current crop of 32-bit Super-SPARC chips.

"If it does what they say it's going to do, it would put them ahead of everybody except Alpha,"

said Linley Gwennap, editor of "Microprocessor Report" in Sebastopol, Calif.

With all that power, Sun is pushing its high-end performance improvements.

"We've got the capability to kick-start the NT port," said Sun Chief Executive Officer Scott McNealy at an UltraSPARC briefing for analysts here last week. "If it ever becomes a reasonable opportunity, we'd be happy to crank it up. But we certainly don't see that now."

#### Striking out on its own

By declining to market NT, Sun is refusing to deal with the coming convergence of PCs and workstations, Gwennap said. "Today, they're doing well, but looking out into the future, they're not going where everybody else is going.'

Hewlett-Packard Co. and lBM, for example, have delivered Unix-based RISC PCs that could be made to run other operating systems.

However, Sun's SPARC Technology Business unit is doing something about NT. The subsidiary recently hired more than 50 Intergraph Corp. engineers who had been working on an NT port earlier this year. Sun's RISC rivals, IBM and HP, have both done NT ports for their RISC chips even though they have not yet decided to market them.

Meanwhile, Digital Equipment Corp.'s Alpha, Silicon Graphics, Inc.'s MIPS chips and Motorola, Inc.'s PowerPC chips all run NT on shipping systems.

Eric Schmidt, Sun's chief technology officer, said the UltraSPARC chip will be able to run NT "extremely well." But he added that Sun does not plan to ship NTcompatible machines itself. Yet Sun could market an NT version "in a very short time" if it decided to produce one, he noted.

NT is so important to some Sun clone makers that they are planning to move to PowerPC to get NT. "Sun's SPARC people are agnostics when it comes to operating systems," said David M. Smith, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. "Their goal in life is to sell SPARC. But I think the only way Sun Microsystems would give in and run NT itself would be as a last-ditch effort."

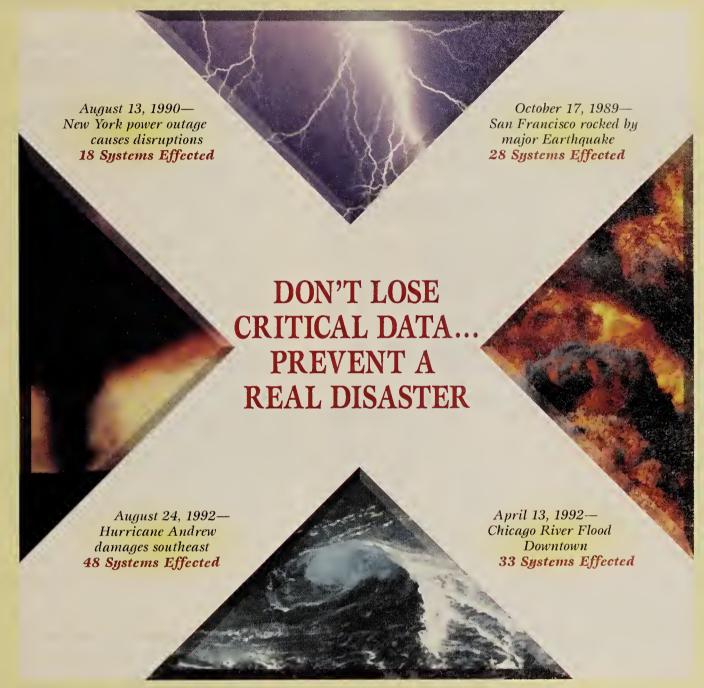
Getting UltraSPARC into systems —

with or without the NT port — is vitally important to vendors that base their systems on SPARC chips.

SuperSPARC's lagging performance caused many Sun sites to search for more power from other RISC vendors or upgrade Sun servers with HyperSPARC chip sets from Ross Technologies, Inc.

The Houston Chronicle did that about four months ago, upgrading four aging Sun 670 servers with HyperSPARC chips, said Jerry McEachern, technology resources manager.

Clone makers are bailing out on SPARC — at least as their prime focus. See page 47.



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#### Apple makeover: A new look

pple Computer is struggling to reconfigure itself. As we watch from the sidelines, it's tempting to both cheer the effort onward and gnash our teeth at the pace of progress.

Nevertheless, it's clear Apple is trying to mend its

Nevertheless, it's clear Apple is trying to mend its ways. Instead of concentrating on high profit margins, it wants more market share. Instead of resting on its laurels, it's trying to build advanced features into the next version of the Macintosh operating system. Best of all, it belatedly understands the value of a more open platform, which could eventually lead to the manufacture of clones.

Fortunately, that understanding is tied to agreements with IBM that will lead both companies toward producing PCs based on a common underlying PowerPC technology. Much remains to be done and the effort could still splinter apart, but Apple appears to have at least a glimmer of recognition that going it alone with 10% of the market will no longer cut it.

With the overwhelming dominance of Windows, any effort by Apple at this point might appear to be too late. Nevertheless, even the

indifferent have reason to wish Apple sueeess. As we watch Intel reassure millions of eustomers that its Pentium mistakes don't matter, it reminds us of the risk inherent in being dependent on any single supplier or architecture. Best to keep alternatives available. If nothing clse, let alternative suppliers set a higher standard of behavior and technology for the dominant manufacturer to live up to.



Apple appears to have at least a glimmer of recognition that going it alone with 10% of the market will no longer cut it.

Charles Babcock

Apple has learned the lessons of the PC marketplace the hard way. Now it remains to be seen whether there is enough time left for it to do something about them before Windows overtakes all the advantages of the Maeintosh.

Apple's biggest challenge is decoupling the Maeintosh operating system from its dependence on the underlying hardware. The elose interdependence of the hardware and software has given us many Maeintosh advantages — ease of installation, network hook up and plug-and-play aecessories — but unraveling this tight integration was beyond the ken of elone makers. Even if Apple licensed System 7 as it is today, clone makers would need the assistance of eodified and standardized specifications for all the dependencies and would struggle to keep up.

Once Macintoshes are built to the PowerPC Reference Platform, new possibilities will open up. The Copland version of the Macintosh operating system will be microkernel-based and therefore more portable. Apple has greater ambitions for Copland now than it did a short while ago. If pre-emptive multitasking makes it into the system, then Apple can layer the Taligent Common Point application development environment on top of it. Taligent's object-building capabilities could yield a long-term competitive advantage. With thousands of precoded object classes available, Common Point may prompt corporate software developers to take a second look at the Macintosh.

Apple also wants to upgrade the networking support, making it as easy to hook a Maeintosh up to common network protocols like TCP/IP and IPX as AppleTalk. And the flashy new user interface would be scalable to the varied skill levels of several users on the same machine.

Likewise, the prospect of IBM and Apple producing PCs that can run more than one operating system may yield additional advantages. With backward compatibility with two (or more) application sets, buyers would have good reason to reconsider the Macintosh.

It's all an iffy scenario that hinges on the rapid upgrade of the PowerPC chip and agreements between its supporters to bring a common PowerPC platform into volume production. It's in our own interest to cheer such an effort onward.

Babcock is Computerworld's technical editor. His MCl Mail address is 575-2737.

#### **News Shorts**

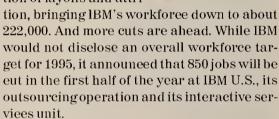
#### GTE picks IntelliCorp to help design new development structure

The telephone operations division of GTE Corp. struck a deal potentially worth \$10 million last week with IntelliCorp, Inc. to help design its future software development platform. The partners will blend some of GTE's own object development tools, including methodologies, with IntelliCorp's Object Management Workbench (OMW). The deal includes a \$5.8 million software license for OMW. The long-term goal is to build a development environment that will provide GTE with up to 80% software reusability and support as many as 2,500 programmers, said Blayne Mering, assistant vice president of technology specifications at the Irving, Texas, company.

#### IBM issues final layoffs of the year

IBM wrapped up its 1994 layoffs last week, issuing pink slips to 1,150 employees in five business units, including its

mainframe and networking systems divisions and the U.S. marketing and sales organization. As many as 12,000 jobs are being cut in the fourth quarter through a combination of layoffs and attri-



#### Bug will delay P24T chip

Talk about tough times for Intel. Last week, the company announced it will not ship the highly publicized P24T Pentium Overdrive processor on schedule. According to Intel, one reason for the delay is an effort to fix a flaw in the processor that prevents boot-up in systems invoking the built-in selt-test function. Intel described the flaw as a "very minor hitch." The Overdrive processor is aimed at users who want to upgrade from 1486SX- and DX-based systems to Pentium-class performance.

#### **Xerox taps Sequent for consulting**

In a major endorsement of a hardware vendor as a services provider, Xerox Corp. has hired Sequent Computer Systems, Inc. to help it map out an enterprise architecture plan. The six-month engagement is part of Xerox's Information Management 2000 initiative, which is aimed at aligning information technology with business goals.

#### Mtel buys out Destineer stock Mobile Telecommunication Technologies Corp.

(Mtel) said it is buying out minority owners of its Destineer Corp. subsidiary, which is building a two-way paging network based on narrowband Personal Communications Services technology. The investors, among them Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and Microsoft eofounder Paul Allen, will exchange their 20% stake in Destineer for 7.5% of Jackson, Miss.-based Mtel

#### Cheyenne eyes the enterprise

At a New York symposium last week, Chevenne Software, Ine. divulged plans to add more enterprise-like features to its storage management software. The technology, ealled Mercury, is slated to include heterogeneous clients to manage heterogeneous servers, automatic recovery of failed jobs, unlimited concurrent backup, support for terabyte tape libraries and applications based on Simple Network Management Protocol.

#### Infrared standard picks up speed

Microsoft is working with Hewlett-Packard Co. to build infrared eommunications into Windows 95, its next version of Windows. Infrared can

handle both scrial and parallel functions, eliminating the need for two ports on portable devices. Hewlett-Packard will write eode to put the Infrared Data Associa-



tion's standard into Windows 95. The drivers will be available from notebook and peripheral makers upon the release of Windows 95, though Microsoft will not build it into the operating system until 60 to 90 days after it ships.

#### CA to absorb OpenIngres fees

Computer Associates International, Inc. will begin shipping CA-OpenRoad for Microsoft's Windows 3.1 and Windows NT before the holidays, while Unix versions of the fourth-generation object-oriented development tool have just entered beta testing and will ship by the end of March. CA also plans to absorb all porting and certification fees for CA-OpenIngres as the database is reconfigured for new hardware platforms and operating systems. CA will also share lieense fees with its CA-OpenIngres resellers.

SHORT TAKES Lehman Brothers, Inc. has laid off 200 of its 2,300 trading systems and technology staffers in an effort to reduce costs.... Armed guards now patrol Cyrix Corp.'s headquarters in Richardson, Texas, where some 2,800 486DX2 microprocessors worth an estimated \$359,000 were stolen Dec. 4.... X/Open Co. will merge with the SQL Access Group, which quietly became one of X/Open's working groups this month. In the process, X/Open paid a token fee of 1 pound sterling for the right to use the SQL Aecess Group brand name.... Next Computer, Inc. shipped Next-Step 3.3 for Intel Corp. and Motorola, Inc. platforms and sent a software developer's kit version of the object-oriented operating system into beta testing for HP's PA-RISC systems last week.... The ATM Forum last week passed a motion from the Desktop ATM25 Alliance to eonsider an additional midrange physical specification for Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM). The vote opens up the possibility once again for 25M bit/sec. ATM to become a standard. In July 1993, the forum voted to consider only one low-speed ATM proposal — 51M bit/sec.

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## Intel's P6 holds to fall 1995 delivery plans

By Michael Fitzgerald

Despite reports to the contrary, Intel Corp. is not accelerating the development process of the P6, its next-generation, high-availability processor, sources close to the company said.

Sources said Intel will continue to fol-

low the schedule it set last year, which calls for producing samples of the 133-MHz part in the first quarter, followed by a midyear announcement and shipments to hardware makers in the fall.

Some OEMs said they expect to have P6 running in servers by Comdex/Fall '95, but not before.

In addition, Intel is developing a highend version of the ehip that will target massively parallel computer makers such as AT&T Global Information Solutions, sources said. The high-end version, along with a 150-MHz chip expected next year, could help massively parallel computers gain momentum in the mar-

ket, according to obscrvers.

Intel declined to comment on unannounced products.

Users said the ehip, which includes built-in support for four-way multiprocessing, is key to Intel's ability to main-

tain a presence in the server market as applications move from large systems to client/server implementations.

P6 will contain some 6 million transistors.

"Single-processor servers for large databases can't be managed effectively — you have to have multiple processors," said Abraham Chait, a team lead at Paeific Gas & Electric Co. in San Francisco.

He said Unix boxes dominate the server side of client/server applications because of their performance and suggested that Intel is in danger of losing the server market if it eannot match Unix server makers.

#### **High volume**

Aecording to sources, the P6 chip, which will begin at 250 MIPS and bump up to 300 MIPS, will contain several other features:

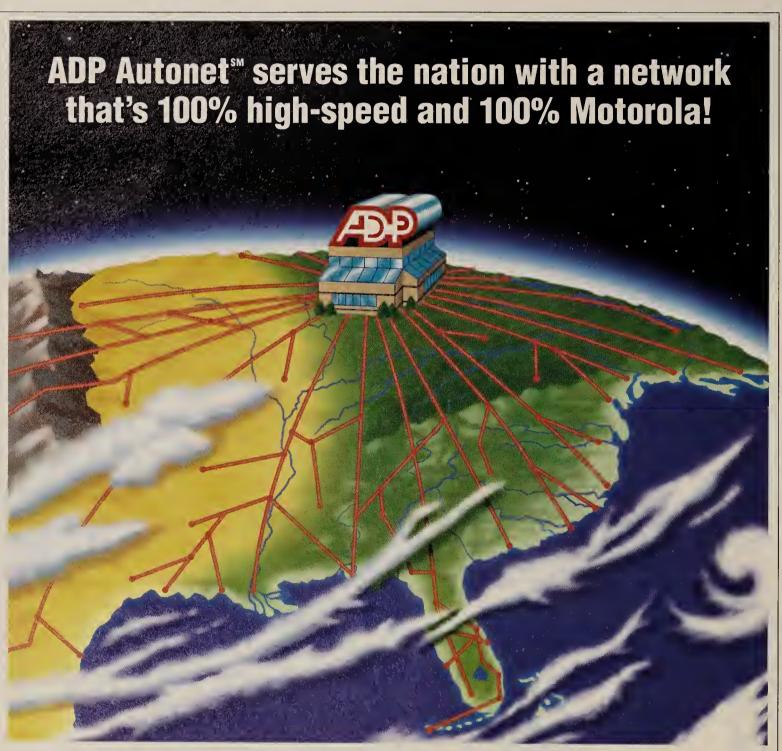
- High availability. This can be achieved through capabilities such as error-eor-recting code, which falls short of redundancy but brings PC servers to the level of Tandem Computers, Inc.'s high-end servers.
- Multiprocessing. This will give PC server makers a standard multiprocessing server architecture that could level the playing field in the server arena. However, it may damage Compaq Computer Corp., which touts its proprietary Tri-Flex architecture as a differentiator.
- Unique packaging. Sources said the chip is 1½ to 2 times as large as the current Pentium. It includes the processor and a 256K-byte Level Two cache in one package a first for Intel. The architecture should help boost performance.

Intel officials did discuss P6's Dynamic Execution feature, which is the major performance differentiator between P6 and Pentium.

John Hyde, a technical marketing manager at Intel, last week said the Dynamie Execution feature combines braneh prediction, speculative execution and data-flow analysis to improve ehip performance — three instructions per cycle, eompared with Pentium's two instructions per cycle. The chip does this by analyzing programs and predicting what instruction will be executed next.

"It's the first time a processor has executed a program rather than instructions," Hyde said. This should let the first-generation P6 run programs twice as fast as today's 66/100-MHz Pentium, he added.

Hyde also said the P6 will consist of multiple units. One unit will act as a fast front end, another as the speculative middle part and the last will be an in-order back end that maintains software eompatibility with current applications.



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MICRO FOCUS

# Legent rolls out client/server tool

Taking a cuc from vendors that already offer modeling and capacity planning tools for mainframes and wide-area networks, Legent Corp. last week rolled out its own client/server application modeling tool.

PRODUCT	Function	AVAILABILITY	PRICE
Paramount/XP- Capacity Application Modeler for Distributed Systems	Simulates the performance of client/server applications across multiple platforms	First- quarter '95	\$33,000
Paramount/XP- Response Manager	Analyzes client/ server response time trends from increased network traffic	Now	\$15,000

Legent's Paramount/XP-Capacity Application Modeler for Distributed Systems allows users to construct "what if" scenarios to evaluate how proposed changes to hardware or software would affect the performance of client/ server applications.

"We're using it to evaluate applications before we buy," said Jim DeVries, a research planning analyst at Southern California Edison Co. in Rosemead, Calif. "We bring an application in for trial on a small test bed, and then we use the modeler to ramp it up to see what the capacity requirements and response times will be when the application is fully loaded."

Southern California Edison is evaluating ap-

plications such as a materials management system and a cashiering system for collecting payments from rate payers.

Legent's Capacity Application Modeler "is not just a mainframe tool or even a ported mainframe tool. It's a tool to analyze the behavior of distributed systems," said Paul Mason, an ana-

> lyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. He noted that while Legent is strongly positioned in the distributed systems arena today, it must continue to sew its products into a seamless whole that encompasses client/ server and mainframe environments.

#### Worthwhile investment

DeVries said he found the first version of Capacity Application Modeler to be "very valuable," although the initial investment was high. "But the future payoff is growing exponentially as we add

new applications, and the complexity becomes unmanageable except by a model," he added. "You can't sit and do it by intuition anymore."

Legent also announced delivery of its Paramount/XP Response Manager, which had been announced last June. Response Manager is a Microsoft Corp. Windows NT-based product that allows users to proactively monitor client/server application response time.

The agent component of Response Manager works with another Legent product, LANSpy, to collect traffic statistics and monitor performance relative to user-defined objectives.

Legent client/server link targets costs. See page 69.

### D&B Software reworks Smartpath, drops price

By Rosemary Cafasso

Hoping to answer user complaints about high costs, Dun & Bradstreet Software plans to soon release a revised and cheaper Smartpath set of client/server migration services and products.

Earlier this year, the company

angered some of its mainframe customers when it previewed Smartpath with a hefty fixed price of \$25,000 per application. At the time, users said they expected that

at least some migration assistance would be included for free with their ongoing maintenance fees when they opted to move to the company's SmartStream client/server platform.

#### **Free conversion**

Last week, company officials complied, saying they will now offer basic data conversion services for free as part of Smartpath. In addition, the vendor said it will offer packages with different price ranges — from \$20,000 to \$100,000 — that will include different levels of customization. These packages would replace the fixed per-application migration fees.

With the initially proposed Smartpath pricing, users would have paid \$100,000 to migrate to four client/server applications, such as Financial Stream's accounts payable, accounts receivable, general ledger and fixed assets. With the new pricing, \$100,000 will provide conversion scrvices for up to nine Smart-Stream applications and a customized conversion project with three weeks of on-site services, compa-

ny officials said.

#### Toeing the line

That is definitely a step in the right direction," George Cacchiani, a senior analyst at Pepsico, Inc. in Purchase, N.Y., said of D&B

Software's revised plans for Smartpath. "There's a baseline of support they should offer if they want people to move to client/server."

D&B Software had targeted an end-of-year shipment date for Smartpath but last week said it will miss that deadline by a few weeks. Migration services packages are now slated for early next

Smartpath includes a data extraction tool from Evolutionary Technologies, Inc., enterprise models that can be used to implement the client/server software and an implementation methodology that will be delivered on Notes databases.

Analysts said the new Smartpath pricing shows that D&B Software is paying more attention to users' concerns.

## HP price cuts leading way

By Michael Fitzgerald and Jaikumar Vijayan

Less than a week after Hewlett-Packard Co. bid for higher ground in the PC market by sharply cutting prices for the second time in three months, IBM has followed suit.

IBM last week announced it will reduce prices by up to 15% on its PC Server 300 series. Under the new pricing, effective immediately, a PC Server 300 based on a 60-MHz Pentium chip with a 1G-byte SCSI-2 hard drive will sell for \$4,499. The server sold for \$4,999 before the cuts.

IBM's pricing action last week was expected to be the precursor to similar actions from other major PC vendors as they try

to align their prices with HP's dramatic cuts, analysts said. Two weeks ago, HP cut prices by up to 26% on both PCs and servers.

#### No war in sight

"Cuts like these were expected. There's probably going to be more pricing actions from major vendors, but there's going to be no price war," said Jennifer Munson, an analyst at WorkGroup Technologies, lnc. in Hampton,

Sources said both Compaq Computer Corp. and NEC Technologies, Inc. are also expected to reduce prices in the next few weeks. Compaq gave an early indicator this week when it cut prices by up to 15% on its LTE Elite notebooks. Prices for the Elite now range from \$2,899 to \$5,799, a drop of \$400 on the low end and \$700 on the high end.

For the moment, though, HP is trying to set the pace in the PC market, said Richard Zwetchkenbaum, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. HP is "getting out in front of the market and wants to establish an image of price leadership," Zwetchkenbaum added.

Jacques Clay, HP's gencral manager of PCs, said the cuts are part of a strategy to raise HP's level of visibility in the overall market. In the past two years, aggressive moves such as this have helped HP vault from nowhere to become the sixth largest seller of PCs in the world.

## Oracle to clarify Rdb pricing

By Mary Brandel and Neal Weinberg

■ The star of the Digital Equipment Corp. Users Society gathering this week in Anaheim, Calif., will actually be Oracle Corp.

The database vendor is expected to shed some much-anticipated light on its pricing strategy for the Rdb relational database Digital sold it in September.

"I think I'm comfortable with what's going on, on the technical side," said Ed Homko, a systems manager at Dr Pepper Co./The Seven-Up Co. in Dallas.

Pricing for Rdb under its new ownership, however, is another matter.

Last week, Beatriz Infante, vice president of open systems at Oracle, confirmed that the company will employ "industry-standard, user-based pricing" for Rdb. This will be a jolt for customers accustomed to the runtime version being bundled at no additional charge with OpenVMS systems.

Oracle will not publish a pricing list. "We intend to run [Rdb] as an ongoing,

supportable business, and that entails some pricing changes," Infante said. Existing Rdb users will pay the old price until the end of this year, she added.

Oracle will also demonstrate a version of its Oracle 7 database that takes advantage of the large amounts of in-line memory in 64-bit systems.

Early next year, Oracle 7.1.6 will be able to run in 8G bytes of memory rather than disk, resulting in eightfold performance improvement, Infante said.

Other key announcements are expected to include the following:

- Aspen Systems, Inc. in Wheat Ridge, Colo., one of the few OEMs using Alpha AXP semiconductors, will become the first outside company to license Digital's OpenVMS operating system.
- A DECnet/Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) upgrade will allow OpenVMS users to run applications over TCP/IP and OSI. "This will obviously be a help to DECnet users," said Michael Goulde, an analyst at the Patricia Seybold Group in Boston.
- A SCSI-based clustering of Alpha systems will result in lower-cost clustering.

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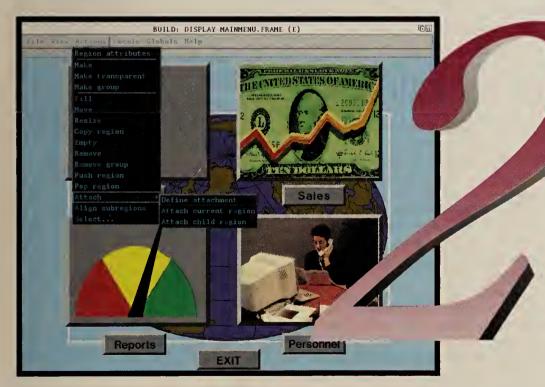
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## Beta users give NetWare 4.1 good grades

NetWare 4.1

Novell, Inc.

PROVO, UTAH (800) 638-9273

Ratings are based on a 1-to-5 scale, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good. The ratings are an average of the scores given by four evaluators.

Total score is the average of all the ratings.

Ease of installation, migration

Compatibility with existing systems

Transmission accuracy and failure

TOTAL SCORE

and software

Speed and efficiency

Security management

Configuration management

recovery

By Michael L. Sullivan-Trainor

Having experienced the trauma of migrating to Novell, Inc.'s NctWare 4.0 and dealing with the delays of 4.1, users in this Firing Line evaluation of NetWare 4.1 are more than a little relieved.

Not only does Novell's latest operating system include long-desired enhancements such as NetWare Directory Services (NDS), but it does so without degrading performance or causing any major migration headaches.

"We were running on Net-Ware 4.02," said a network consultant at a 1,000-node financial services firm. "4.1 was like a godsend. It's saving me a lot of hassle and time. They've definitely hit the target this time."

Four companies were involved in this evaluation: a financial services firm, a manufacturer, a systems integrator and a broadcasting company. Two of the users were early members of Novell's beta program and each had more than 10 months of experience with the product. The other users each had six months of experience.

One site had NetWare 4.1 in full production, while the others were still migrating and testing it. The system was running on Intel Corp.-based servers from Compaq Computer Corp. and other vendors. The number of nodes involved ranged from a single test node to 1,000.

#### Ease of installation, migration

Set aside some time for this one. The evaluators reported that installation was time-consuming but glitch-free. The transition from the bindery structure to NDS requires a learning curve, but users reported that NDS is more forgiving of implementation errors in this version.

Broadcasting company: "The horror stories that we'd heard about installing NetWare 4.0 didn't materialize."

Systems integrator: "It's a big job; it's not a clean-cut upgrade. The structures are different between the bindery and the NDS directories. Installing it on one server is no big deal, but if you're going to install on more than one, you need to think about it carefully."

#### Compatibility

The biggest problem with compatibility, according to the evaluators, is upgrading the NetWare Loadable Modules (NLM) from various application vendors that work with NetWare to the current version.

Systems integrator: "Compatibility could be better. I expect future NLM applications will come out that work directly with 4.1."

Financial services firm: "Testing the compatibility with current applications was our primary objective in the beta. Novell worked with our software providers to fix half a dozen bugs with the NLMs we were using. The problems were solved quickly."

#### Accuracy and failure recovery

One major problem emerged in a multiple-server environment: The directory would not recognize one of the servers after the system was rebooted following a failure. Novell attributed this problem to the running of multiple beta versions of 4.1 and claimed it is not a problem otherwise.

Financial services firm: "We're transmitting 25G bytes of data with no corruptions or performance lag, even with compression."

Speed and efficiency

"Much faster" was the description users gave Net-Ware 4.1 vs. previous versions. One user said it was twice as fast as Version 4.02 in retrieving data and applications, including Microsoft Corp.'s Access, Borland International, Inc.'s Paradox and Lotus Development Corp.'s 1-2-3.

Manufacturer: "The Net-Ware Link Server Protocol reduced traffic overhead and was a significant improvement."

#### Security management

Pet peeves swayed the users' views in this area. One user wanted supervisory authority as a requirement for access to the audit console. An-

other user did not want to give help desk personnel the authority to change passwords.

Financial services firm: "We have lots of departments and subdepartments. The new structure allows me to assign security access based on how the company is structured rather than having to identify each user. It has dramatically reduced our management time."

#### **Configuration management**

4.0

3.9

4.0

3.8

4.5

4.0

4.0

Users said they liked the fact that menu-based commands replaced command line structures in setting system parameters. They also appreciated the flexibility they had to change the directories.

#### Technical support/Price

As beta users, these customers received special deals

on technical support and pricing. Most users reported extra hand-holding and unusually fast access to Novell technicians. They also paid far less than average us-

ers in exchange for testing the product.

One exception was the broadcasting company, which had originally been won over by the support it received as a 3.x beta user. But this time around was a different story.

"It was not a good process. If I didn't call [the support technicians], they wouldn't care," the user said. Regarding price, the users said Novell was going in the right direction. "They're dropping 25% off the price when 4.1 ships," the manufacturer noted.

#### Novell responds

Novell's Jim Greene, product line manager for NetWare server products, responds to issues:

Crash recovery: We tested NctWare 4.1 in our superlab of hundreds of servers. We discovered a few instances where we needed to synchronize different levels of beta and final code. The final gold code in 4.1 removes those anomalies.

Supervisor authority: We're working with a number of audit governing boards at banks, and they want the auditors to be independent and not have supervisor authority. You can set up authority to change passwords without giving supervisor authority.

Technical support: The 4.1 beta program was certainly one of the larger and more ambitious betas we've ever done. It was much larger than 3.11. We are committed to making sure our support quality doesn't drop.

### Seven services debut

By Laura DiDio

With its much-anticipated release of NetWare 4.1, Novell, Inc. is finally delivering on its 2-year-old promise to provide advanced features, services and, most important, stable code.

The latest release of the network operating system contains seven core services that Novell executives claim are essential to building distributed networks to take advantage of future applications and public networks. The crown jewel is NetWare Directory Services (NDS), said Richard King, executive vice president and general manager of Novell's NetWare Systems Group.

NDS is an object-oriented information database service that organizes all network resources — including users, groups, volumes and physical network devices such as printers and file servers — into a hierarchical tree structure. In practical terms, all departmental LANs and devices become one vir-

er to enter a single log-on to access all services enterprisewide.

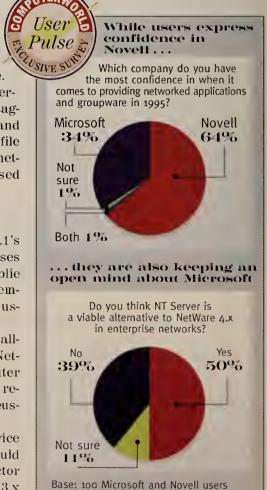
The other integrated core services include integrated messaging, multiprotocol routing and wide-area network support, file and print services, enhanced network management and increased security.

#### A key to your ID

Of particular note, NetWare 4.1's NDS authentication services uses the RSA Data Security, Inc. public key encryption technology that employs a private "key" to verify a user's identity.

As an inducement to get the allimportant channel to push Net-Ware 4.1, the multiprotocol router eapability can be deployed by resellers to remotely manage customer sites, King said.

"This is a new business service and revenue stream and should prove to be a big motivating factor to get our resellers to migrate 3.x users to 4.1," King said.



Source: Computerworld survey

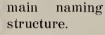
#### **NetWare**

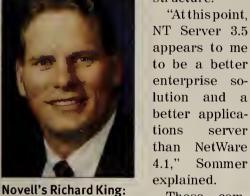
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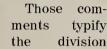
For others the choice is clear-cut and simple in favor of NT Server 3.5.

Steve Sommer, MIS director at New York law firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed, said he made the decision to scrap Net-Ware 3.12 and replace it with NT Server 3.5 "almost overnight."

Sommer said he chose NT Server 3.5 because of its scalability, built-in valueadded applications, lower cost and do-







over which giant has the edge and who will emerge as the eventual winner.

NDS will make mi-

gration smoother

"The war is Novell's to win or lose. They've got the installed base, and Microsoft will have to fight hard to get users to switch," said Lee Doyle, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

Rich Edwards, a senior analyst at Robertson Stephens & Co. in San Francisco, said Microsoft has put all of its marketing muscle behind NT Server 3.5 and priced it lower than NetWare 4.1 by 20% to 30%, depending on the configuration and volume.

"There's widespread acceptance of NT Server 3.5 even though it doesn't contain the enterprisewide directory services functionality of NDS," Edwards said. "The word is that NT Server is approaching 1 million units shipped."

#### Window of opportunity

The door was left wide open for NT Server when "Novell stalled for two years with earlier NetWare 4.x releases that were either buggy or didn't deliver the promised features and functionality," Edwards said. "For many users, NT Server was the only viable alternative."

NetWare 4.1 incorporates the NetWare Directory Services (NDS) enterprisewide hierarchical tree, which gives businesses a single log-in for all users and devices spanning the entire network. NDS, along with the integrated messaging capabilities, multiprotocol routing and new network management tools, was designed to make the upgrade from 3.x smooth and nearly painless, said Richard King, executive vice president and general manager of Novell's NetWare Systems Group (see story page 14).

"Our feedback from beta-test sites indicates that NDS and the network management tools are cutting the time and complexity of the upgrade and lowering network administration costs by an average of 30%," King said.

John Verreault agreed. He is the supervisor of technical services at Hoechst Celanese, a pharmaceutical, chemical and textile firm in Montreal that is migrating from NetWare 4.02 to 4.1.

"The NDS facility will let us consolidate our network administration according to geographical region, which is a big time-saver," Verreault said. "And the ability within 4.1 to merge the directory trees will allow our 10,000 users to

browse and access corporate resources throughout North America."

Verreault also praised the advanced file compression capabilities in NetWare 4.1, which he said has doubled the company's disk storage capacity.

Novell sagely decided to deprive Microsoft of at least one potential weapon on the price front when it eliminated the price premiums for 4.1 that it had established for NetWarc 4.x.

Current 4.x customers will upgrade

free of charge to 4.1. And NetWare 3.x users who are upgrading directly to 4.1 will pay \$995 for a 10-user license, \$2,795 for 100 users and \$4,995 for 250 users.

Novell will now give NetWare 4.1 customers the option of purchasing 500- and 1,000-user versions of the network operating system, priced at \$6,295 and \$8,395, respectively, King said.

Analysts see slow NetWare move. See page

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## OMG approves object standard

By Jean S. Bozman

After two months of intensive behind-thescenes wrangling among vendors, the Object Management Group (OMG) finally agreed last week on a dc facto standard that many users believe will become the cornerstone for distributed object computing.

The OMG set its stamp of approval on Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) 2.0. The broker will essentially detail the two-way communications between different vendors' object request broker implementations.

The group's secret ballot vote of 15-4 officially made the TCP/IP networking protocol the technical underpinning for moving objects over LANs and WANs. But the choice was controversial because IBM, Digital Equipment Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. backed an alternative proposal for the Open Software Foundation's (OSF) Distributed Computing Environment (DCE).

#### Microsoft support a mystery

The new standard has the support of major systems vendors and software vendors. But the extent to which Microsoft Corp., an OMG member, will support the CORBA 2.0 standard in its products is still uncertain — and that is causing some confusion, users said. Microsoft proposed a link between CORBA and its Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) technology in September, it is still under consideration.

The CORBA 2.0 standard specification will start appearing in various vendors' products by next fall, but users are not expected to use objects widely until the late 1990s, industry analysts said last week.

"We are still waiting for implementation," said Tsvi Gal, a senior vice president of information technology at BankAmerica Corp. in Concord, Calif. "Since [the OMG vendor members] are using TCP/IP, which is the lowest common denominator, these products should come within six months."

Even after CORBA 2.0 implementations are shipped, users will spend a lot of time evaluating them and setting up pilot projects, Gal said. But to accommodate large systems vendors and user sites, CORBA 2.0 also supports the DCE as an option [CW, Nov. 7].

Stanford University, an OSF member, plans to migrate to DCE networks next year, said Raman Khanna, director of distributed computing and communications systems. He said he hopes the OMG and OSF standards — as well as Microsoft's OLE — will be on the same track by then.

"We're doing some prototyping using objects, but there's this whole confusion about which approach to use: the CORBA approach or Microsoft's OLE," Khanna said.

Yet while CORBA 2.0 is now a standard specification, vendors still have the option to implement it in many ways.

"Every vendor will have a CORBA-eompliant [object request broker], and then it will have some proprietary extensions — additional bells and whistles," said Natasha Krol, director of advanced information management strategies at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn. "This game is as old as computers."

## CA-Unicenter gains SNMP support

By Thomas Hoffman

■ In response to customer demands, Computer Associates International, Inc. has added Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) support to its forthcoming release of CA-Unicenter 1.1, which will ship this week.

The feature will allow the systems management package to interface more scamlessly with network management products such as Hewlett-Packard Co.'s OpenView and Sun Microsystems, Inc.'s SunNet Manager through SNMP management information base agents. It reflects yet another move by CA to respond to CA-Unicenter's shortcomings, as identified by customers.

In August, CA slashed the price of CA-Unicenter by up to 86%, a move aimed at luring prospective low-end customers that otherwise could not afford the package [CW, Aug. 29]. Last month, CA began integrating into CA-Unicenter a cross-platform software distribution tool and two intelligent agents designed for database and systems event detection [CW, Nov. 28].

By not allowing CA-Unicenter 1.0 to integrate easily with complementary packages, "we made some mistakes, but we've since learned from them," said Yogesh Gupta, senior vice president of open systems at CA. By providing SNMP support, the systems management package will, for example, let systems administrators detect a failed node on a network.

#### **Good reception**

The SNMP capabilities have been well received by CA-Unicenter customers, which were forced to write and maintain their own interfaces among complementary packages.

"That type of flexibility should make Unicenter much more available to other products and should reduce our maintenance requirements," said Peter A. Ginocchio, manager of

computer operations at Central States Health and Welfare and Pension Fund, a funds manager in Rosemont, Ill.

Ginocchio said his eompany plans to install CA-Unicenter/Star to interface with mainframe packages such as CA-7 and IBM's Information Management software utilities.

Commerce Clearing House, Inc., a Riverwoods, Ill., provider of tax and business law software and services, had been using CA-Unicenter 1.0 to manage seven Unix-based HP 9000 Corporate Business Servers that run the company's core business applications. Commerce Clearing House's be-

ta testing of CA-Unicenter 1.1 has shown the upgraded product to offer more robust tape management while consuming fewer systems resources, said Dave Dubnick, manager of technology operations. "Many of the features in Unicenter 1.1 are those that we asked for," Dubnick said.

Still, there are some limits to SNMP capabilities. For example, systems administrators would be hard-pressed to

use the protocol to manage multiple platforms over a wide-area network configuration because a high volume of network traffic would make those communications difficult, according to John Mann, a senior analyst at The Yankee Group in Boston.

"But it is reasonable for Unicenter to poll on a local-area network since it's local," Mann added.



CA's Yogesh Gupta: 'We've learned from our mistakes'

## Digital mulls Motorola bid for plant

By Neal Weinberg

Digital Equipment Corp. last week confirmed that Motorola, Inc. has offered to buy Digital's Alpha AXP semiconductor plant in South Queensferry, Scotland.

Digital Chief Executive Officer Robert Palmer has been encouraging offers from other chip manufacturers to help his company deal with its money-draining overcapacity problem. The South Queensferry sale would solve that problem and net the eompany some much needed cash — any-

where from \$100 million to \$200 million.

Digital does not have the volume to support large-scale fabrication, but Motorola, the world's secondlargest semiconductor manufacturer, does, said Andrew Allison, editor of the newsletter "Inside the New Computer Industry" in Carmel, Calif.

#### Mass consolidation

Details of the possible sale are sketchy, but the most likely scenario, according to Terry Shannon, an analyst at Illuminata in Ashland, Mass., is that Digital will eonsolidate its Alpha ehip production into its state-of-the-art, \$425 million plant in Hudson, Mass.

That facility is testing Digital's newest generation of Alpha chips, the EV-6, with full production slated for 1996. The South Queensferry plant and an older plant in Hudson produce the current EV-4 and EV-4/5 chips.

When Digital launched Alpha two years ago, the company said it was vital that the chip become an industry standard so semiconductor manufacturing could become self-sufficient through the sale of chips to other companies. "It obvi-

ously hasn't transpired the way they'd like," said George Elling, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York.

Digital's Alpha sales this year increased 164% over 1993. And Alpha sales have surpassed VAX sales, according to the latest quarterly results.

The sale of the South Queensferry plant is not expected to impact Digital's ability to meet Alpha demand. But one possible wrinkle in the plant sale involves Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD), which has a contract with Digital into 1996 for 486 chips produced at South Queensferry. A sale

would have no effect on the contract, said Jim Lochmiller, an AMD spokesman.

# U.S. Alpha shipments 60 SHIPMENTS (In thousands) 50 56\* 40 42\* 30 33\* 20 10 2.3 0 2.3 0 292 '93 '94 '95 '96 \*Projected

Source: WorkGroup Technologies, Inc., Hampton, N.H.

#### Too fast for its own good

The contrast between Motorola's and AMD's thirst for chip manufacturing space and Digital's overcapacity raises the larger question of why Digital has been unable to generate sufficient interest in Alpha's 64-bit technology. Two years after the company introduced Alpha as the cornerstone of its eomeback strategy, the chip is in danger of becoming just a house brand.

The irony is that while everyone agrees that Alpha is a fast, power-

ful ehip, it might even be too fast.

"It's like starting an auto company and coming out with an automobile that does 200 miles an hour. If you don't have the roadways to take advantage of it, and if the primary use is commuting, then you don't need the extra performance," said Frane Romano, an analyst at Aberdeen Group in Boston.

He said Alpha has the potential to become a major force in the growing fields of multimedia and video imaging.

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## Few IS projects come in on time, on budget

By Rosemary Cafasso

Application development projects are still the black eye of some information systems organizations: Nearly one-third of all projects fail and more than half come in over budget.

The good news is that more than half

of the IS executives surveyed in a recent report said there are actually fewer failures today than there were five to 10 years ago.

These and other findings are part of a report, "The High Cost of Chaos," released last week by The Standish Group International, Inc. in Dennis, Mass.

The research firm recently surveyed 365 companies that together represent more than 8,000 development projects. According to those respondents, only 16% of all projects come in on time and on budget.

"This is disappointing and disturbing, but it is consistent with reality," said Jack Cooper, chief information officer at Joseph E. Seagram & Sons in New York, commenting on the survey results.

Also, the bigger the company, the bigger the problems, the Standish Group report said. It found that large corporations—defined as having more than \$500 million in revenue—typically have low-

The ups and downs



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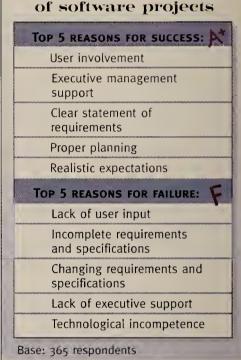
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Source: The Standish Group International, Inc., Dennis, Mass.

er-than-average success rates with development projects.

Coming in with a 9% success rate, large companies suffer from projects that are too large and have too many requirements to fulfill on a timely basis, the research firm said.

The Standish Group reported that in the average large corporate project, only 42% of the planned features and functions end up in the final version of the software.

#### Always late, always over

Some industry analysts suggest that some of the Standish Group results are too conservative and the percentages of cost overruns in particular are likely higher.

"Year to year, you would hope the percentages would go down, but projects are always late and over budget," said Ed Aely, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

The Standish Group reported that one reason projects still fail is because IS typically sweeps disasters under the rug instead of learning from them.

"With all the methodologies and software engineering and so forth, we still don't know why they fail," said Standish Group Chairman James H. Johnson.

Cooper said he suspects projects flounder because all the new technologies and design tools cannot take away this basic fact: The essence of a development project is turning abstract concepts into working products.

"Creation and construction are always difficult," Cooper said. "There is no magical solution."

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## Users still wrestle with E-mail privacy

Lack of clearly defined policies leaves many wary

By Suruchi Mohan

The thorny ethical questions raised about managers reading their employees' electronic mail remain largely unresolved, many users at the recent E-Mail

World conference in Boston said.

To some employees, E-mail is the electronic version of a sealed letter and therefore sacrosanct. To them, reading another's E-mail is clearly unethical.

sonal use of this medium makes monitoring—though hardly desirable—at least justifiable.

Network administrators do have to check to see if excessive mail stored on the network is obstructing traffic. However, users stressed that even those responsibilities do not give administrators the right to read the messages.

"Most employees think E-mail is personal; it is not," cautioned Fred Lyell, senior product manager of clinical systems at Columbia/HCA Information Services, lnc., a health care corporation in Nashville, A certain amount of personal traffic over E-mail should be permissible, such as asking a fellow employee to schedule lunch, he added, while exchanging gossip about office romances ought to be verboten.

Nina Burns, president of Creative Networks, a consultancy

in Palo Alto, Calif., said privacy surrounding E-mail should be the same as that around interoffice mail, which is re-

garded as personal. But that is not the case because of the difference in the medium, she added. If privacy needs limit the ability of administrators to monitor traffic, the network can end up in trouble.

Many employees assume that ethical considerations will keep managers from reading their E-mail. Yet this assumption can be dangerous when a company has no stated or written policy on E-mail privacy, said Dave Bonisar, a policy analyst at the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington.

The lack of such a policy means that neither managers nor employees know where the company stands on privacy issues. And an overwhelmingly large number of companies do not have a written policy, making them vulnerable to lawsuits, Bonisar said.

When companies do not have a welldefined policy, they also face the danger that employees will misuse E-mail or that overzealous managers will trip themselves up in embarrassing situations, said Walter Ulrich, a director at Arthur D. Little in Los Angeles.

#### False sense of security

Many users feel that having passwords guarantees their privacy, explained Bill Moroney, executive director at the Electronic Messaging Association in Arlington, Va. "Once they have the password, they feel no one can get into the computer or open the mail," he said.

But network administrators of systems such as Novell, Inc.'s NetWare can indeed read E-mail. That capability bothers Scott Schultheis, a PC network specialist at Central Soya in Fort Wayne, Ind. "Even people with supervisor's rights on the network should not be able to read the president's mail," he said. Yet managers should have the ability to see whether their direct reports are doing their assigned tasks, he added.

Because it is possible to steal information and harass fellow workers using Email, employers do have to walk a fine line between taking the Big Brother approach and protecting their assets and employees, Moroney said.

Yet others argue that excessive per-"MY CLIENT/SERVER PROJECT IS STALLED. I DON'T NEED ANOTHER TOOL. I NEED A STRATEGY." ENTERPRISE OBJECT ARCHITECTURE

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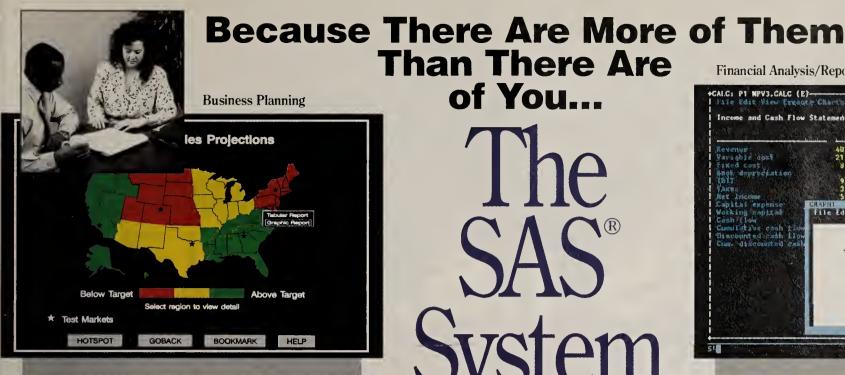
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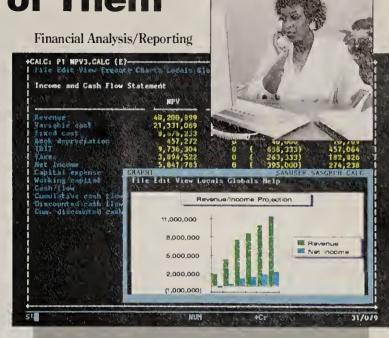
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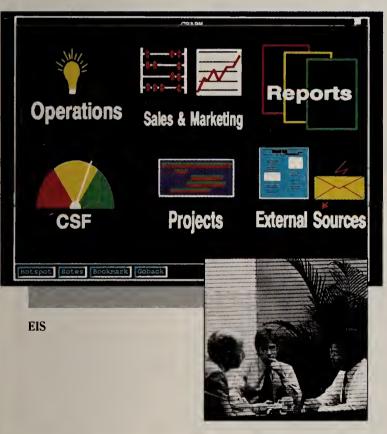
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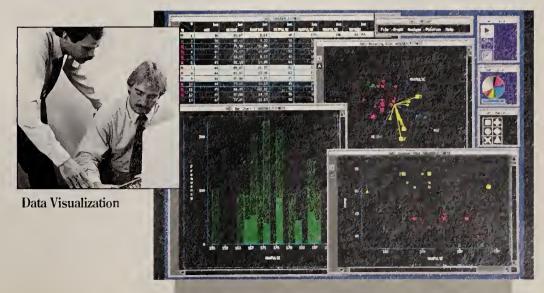
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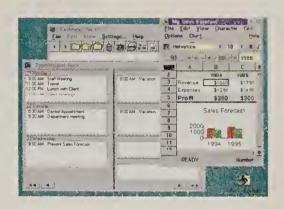
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### Civic networks concern open meetings advocates

By Mitch Betts

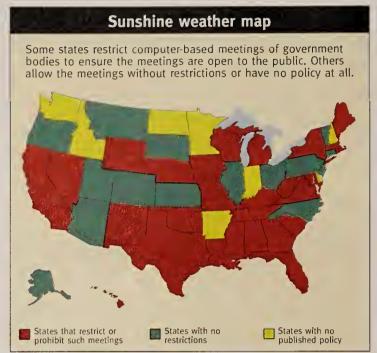
They have names like CityNet, StateNct and Electronic Town Hall. Almost every week some state or local agency starts a computer bulletin board, Internet link or civic network in hopes of improving citizens' access to government.

But some researchers worry about a darker side: The electronic-mail networks could be used by government officials — intentionally or not — to circumvent the "sunshine laws" meant to keep government meetings and records open to the public.

"E-mail is a marvelous tool, but there will be a temptation for public officials to confer with colleagues on topics that would violate the open-meeting laws in some states," warned Bill Chamberlin, director of the University of Florida's Brechner Center for Freedom of Information in Gainesville.

The danger is that agencies, boards and councils will deliberate on official business via private E-mail or electronic conferences, experts said. Council members could cut a deal in cyberspace on where to put the next trash dump, for example.

A few cases have already emerged. In 1991, the Santa Monica, Calif., school board had to close down its private computer conferencing system after the city attorney said it violated the state openmeetings law. More recently, Florida's at-



Source: April 1994 study by Susan D. Ross, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information,

torney general issued an opinion that Email is covered by that state's sunshine law, Chamberlin said.

#### Alooming threat

Although there is little case law on electronic evasion of sunshine laws, experts are worried because "teleconferencing is already a problem, and E-mail is an even more convenient tool," noted Harry Hammitt, editor of the newsletter "Access Reports" in Lynchburg, Va.

Open-meetings laws typically apply

when a quorum of council members deliberates on government business, with the exception of closed topics such as personnel actions and pending litigation. The laws usually require advance public notice of government meetings and public release of the minutes and votes taken.

But the legalitics greatly state, especially when it comes to coverage of electronic discussions. In Florida, the open-meetings law would apply

even if just two officials discussed government business via computer networking, Chamberlin said.

Susan D. Ross, a research fellow at the Brechner Center, said her recent study of the 50 states found that more than half restrict or prohibit electronic meetings for government bodies (see map). On the other hand, eight states have taken no stand on the issue and may need to update their laws, she said.

Even a conscientious official may have trouble obcying the rules, however.

For one thing, a jurisdiction's court rulings, state laws and administrative procedures are not always in agreement on what is proper sunshine conduct, Ross said. Chamberlin added that public officials get very little training on sunshine ethics.

"Rather than try to police it, which would be impossible, just put up a warning notice [on the system] not to conduct government transactions," suggested Mike Godwin, staff counsel at the Electronic Frontier Foundation in Washington.

#### Legal 'fantasies'

Henry H. Perritt Jr., a law professor at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa., maintains that the open-meetings laws are properly focused on the government decision-making process. He argued that there should be no problem with networks focused on public access, fact gathering and opinion gathering.

"These experimental networks should not be held back by fantasies about legal problems," Perritt said.

No one is arguing that the new civic networks should be ditched - only that sunshine features should be built into the system.

"Electronic meetings can be used to exclude the public or they can provide a whole new avenue for increasing access to public meetings," Ross said. "It's a very delicate balancing act."

#### Feds resist upgrade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is a controversial, confusing issue," said a bank official who asked not to be named. "We have invested tremendously in [current encryption technology], and rightfully so. Unfortunately, we are moving to change, and any change is costly, and any change may not be exportable."

Eddie Zeitler, vice president of information security at Fidelity Investment Co. in Boston, noted that while the DES algorithm "has held up incredibly well over 20 years," the issue is the 56-bit key length. "Machines are getting fast enough now that it's possible to do a bruteforce search to find a key that works," he explained.

Many people suspect that the government, led by the

National Security Agency, opposes the export and widespread adoption of triple-DES because the agency fears triple-DES would also boost the security of spies and criminals. Moreover, the NSA opposes export of any strong encryption option that competes with its own "key-escrow" method embodied in the controversial Clipper chip.

For the record, the NSA says it is opposed to triple-DES because it may be flawed technically — a matter of dispute among cryptographers.

"We have this irony that you can't export triple-DES, but if it were really full of holes, the NSA wouldn't care about exports," said Mike Godwin, staff counsel at the Electronic Fronticr Foundation. "What they really want to do is undermine confidence in alternatives to keyescrow systems."

Harold Deal, chairman of the ANSI-accredited X9 committee for financial services standards and a vice president at NationsBank Corp. in Charlotte, N.C., said a bank could in theory avoid the export issue by buying triple-DES products from foreign suppliers.

"But we worry about what the [government] would say when they audit us," Deal said. "If there's a law that says you can't export triple-DES and we're using it in London, we would at least be open to some criticism."

The X9 committee recently sent ballots to its members asking whether it should proceed to develop an ANSI standard for triple-DES. An earlier ballot brought a "no" vote from the NSA and an unusually high number of abstentions from member banks - reflecting the uncertainty that surrounds the issue.

Some users have not taken kindly to the NSA's efforts to block the development of a standard for triple-DES. "We need the ANSI standard for interoperability," Zeitler said. "We use single-strength DES now because there is no agreed upon way to implement triple-DES.'

Stephen T. Kent, chief scientist for security technology at Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc., said the banking industry's interest in triple-DES is misplaced because triple-DES is aimed primarily at strengthening confidentiality, while the industry has traditionally been more worried about message integrity and user authentication.

Kent said banks should be moving to the newer technology embodied in public-key cryptography and digital signatures, which offer better guarantees of integrity and authentication. "Going to triple-DES doesn't make a lot of sense," he said. "It is tweaking the wrong part of the solution space."

Stephen T. Wałker, president of Trusted Information Systems, Inc. in Glenwood, Md., said banks may have little choice. "As I look at the options now, I view triple-DES, correctly implemented, as the only plausible path," he said. Other algorithms simply have not been around long enough to establish confidence in the marketplace, he added.

#### An option in the wings

lbert R. Belisle, former chairman of the American Bankers Association's information systems security committee, said the banking industry and the NSA could conceivably agree on a strong, exportable encryption scheme to replace DES. But it could not have the drawbacks of the Clipper key-escrow approach, in which the U.S. government holds the keys to unlocking messages.

The not support Clipper, but I do recognize the need to move beyond DES," said Belisle, who works at a large U.S. bank. "Maybe key-escrow isn't such a bad idea in another implementation. It could be usetul if we were our own escrow agents."

Meanwhile, although it has not made a formal announcement, RSA Data Security, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif., has developed an encryption algorithm, called RC5, said to overcome the objections to DES.

RC5 is 60 times as fast and 5% as big as DES and can be configured by a user to be far stronger, said Jim Bidzos, president of RSA. The user can vary the key size, data block size and other factors important to efficiency and security, he said.

Bidzos said RSA will publish the specifications for RC5, allowing anyone worldwide to implement it and thereby sidestepping the export issue.

-Gary H. Anthes

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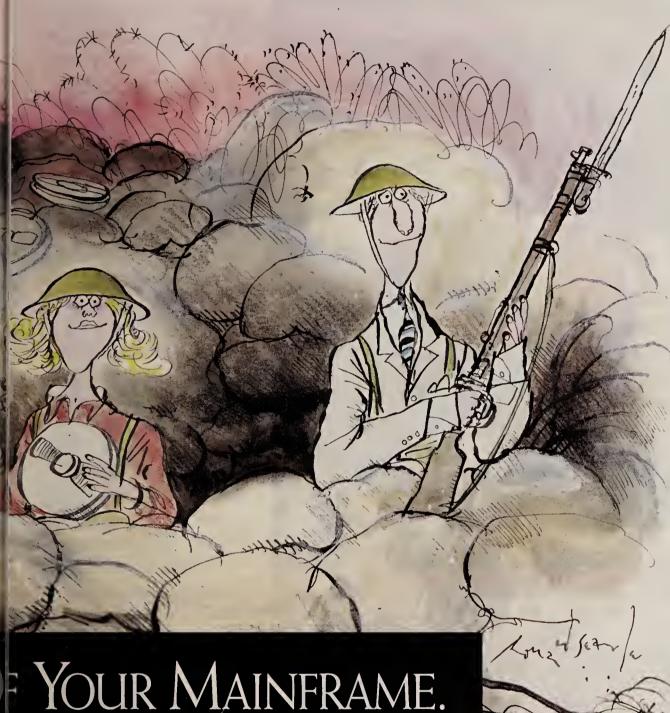
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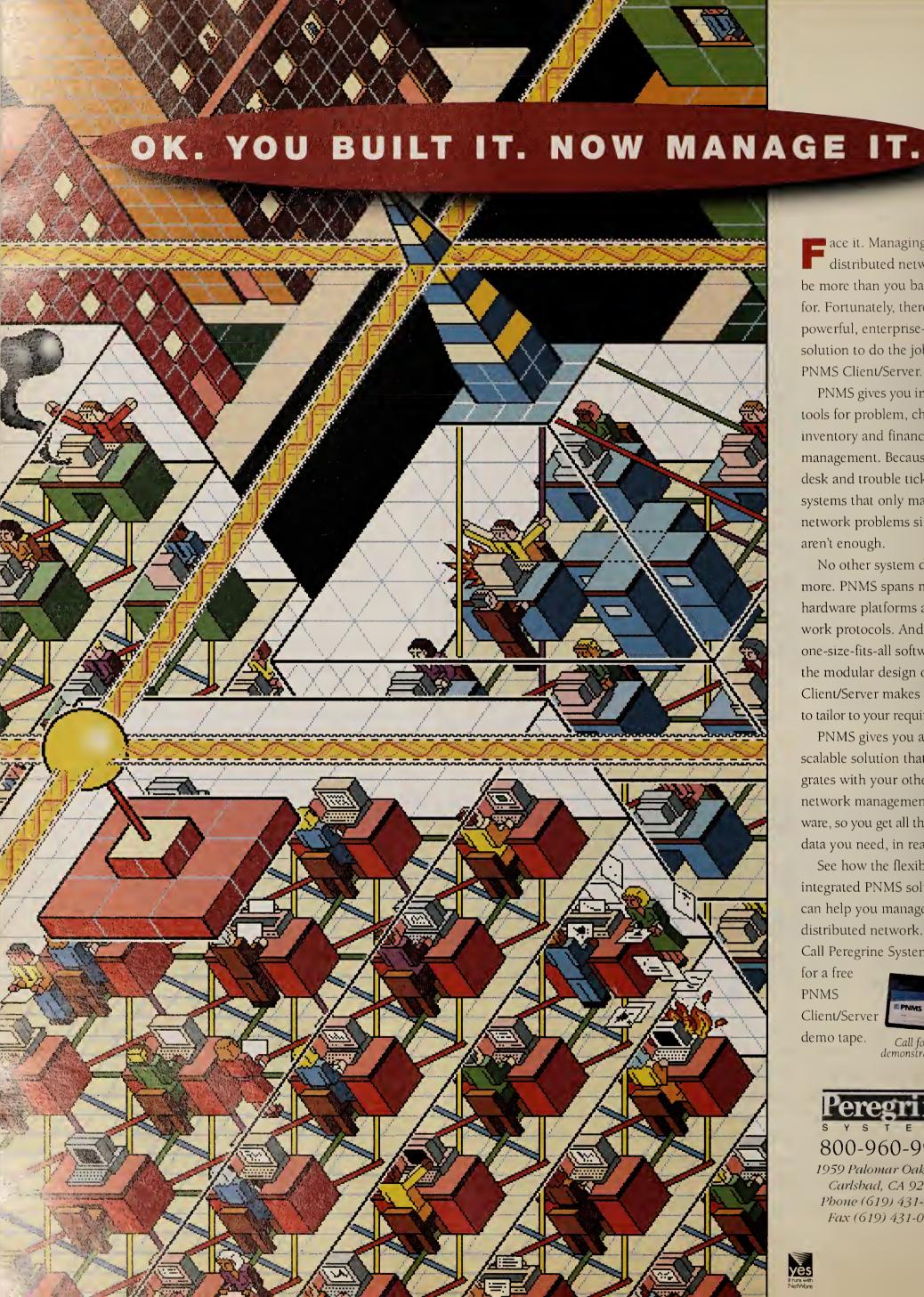
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### Computer Industry

#### Briefs

#### Cisco makes ATM deal

In a \$123 million deal, Cisco Systems, Inc. last week acquired enterprise-class Asynchronous Transfer Mode switching technology and assets from Light-Stream Corp. in Billerica, Mass. Upon final approval, LightStream's current-generation product, the Light-Stream 2000, will be sold immediately through Cisco channels.

#### Parallan merges

Former superserver vendor Parallan Computer, Inc. has merged with Meridian Data, Inc., a manufacturer of network CD-ROM products in Scotts Valley, Calif. Meridian, acquired for \$19 million, will become a fully owned subsidiary of Parallan. The combined company will offer products under the Meridian name.

#### TI settles Cyrix suit

Chip maker Cyrix Corp. in Richardson, Texas, last week said it has settled a December 1993 lawsuit against Texas Instruments, Inc. over a 1991 contract dispute. Under the settlement, TI will pay Cyrix \$15 million for past royalty obligations and a fully paid, royalty-free license for the Cyrix 486SLC/DLC product line.

**SHORT TAKES** Evans & Sutherland Computer Corp. has named James Oyler, 48, to the office of president and chief executive officer.... Unify Corp. in Sacramento, Calif., tapped Reza Mikailli, 43, as CEO. He is a veteran of Informix Software, Inc. and Ingres Corp.... MicroAge, Inc. has reported revenue of \$2.2 billion for its fiscal year ended Oct. 30, a 47% increase over 1993. Net income for the same period rose 56% from last year, to \$16.3 million... Attachmate Corp. and Digital Communications Associates, Inc. have cleared the required Antitrust Improvement Act waiting period, so their merger could take place by year's end.

#### Intel should ride out chip storm

By Jaikumar Vijayan

■ Although the uproar over the floatingpoint flaw in Intel Corp.'s Pentium chip shows few signs of blowing over, analysts say they doubt much long-term damage has been done to the company or the controversial microprocessor.

Yet the black cye Intel received in the ordeal could dramatically improve its vision of the marketplace, observers said.

"Intel learned that they are now a consumer company. Though they see themselves as just a chip vendor, when you spend \$150 million advertising yourself, you become a consumer company," said David Wu, an analyst at Wall Street broker S. G. Warburg & Co. in New York.

In fact, Intel's failure to react like a consumer company may well have precipitated the crisis, analysts said. They point to the fact that while Intel stumbled to explain itself only after the issue had reached nearcrisis proportions, several systems vendors were staging little publicity coups of their own

Vendors such as IBM, Compaq Computer Corp. and Dell Computer Corp., for instance, quickly announced telephone hot lines and special programs to help customers affected by the flaw, generally giving the impression of having things well under control, analysts noted.

Ironically, another reason for the vehement backlash from a segment of Intel's customers could be the level of expectation created by the advertising campaign for the Pentium chip.

"Intel started off the year by telling the whole world that they would blow the windows off the 486 with Pentium, and everyone was salivating to get a hold of one," said Tony Massimini, an analyst at In-Stat Research, Inc. in Scottsdale, Ariz. So when news of the bug got out, it triggered widespread reaction, he said.

The Internet was particularly effective at spreading the word, first within its own community and then beyond it,

analysts said. With Intel trying to underplay the effects of the bug and users anxious to get more technical details about it, the Internet swiftly became a breeding ground for both information and wild speculation.

Even Intel Chief Executive Officer Andrew Grove's public letter over the Internet did little to assuage concerns about the flaw, with users seriously questioning the credibility of the company's explanation.

Commercially, however, the impact is likely to be minimal for Intel and the systems vendors basing their designs on the Pentium processor. While Intel stock slid somewhat in the first days of the controversy, and stock prices of Pentium-pushing companies such as Gateway 2000, Inc. and Dell took a hit, they are unlikely to remain affected for long, analysts agreed.

And despite the initial concern triggered

by news of the flaw and questions about Intel's explanations, vendors said they are optimistic that Pentium sales in this crucial quarter will still be on target. Before the controversy, Intel predicted it would sell between 6 million and 7 million Pentium chips, although analysts pegged the figure a bit lower at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million to 5 million.



Intel CEO Andrew Grove's public letter on the Internet did little to assuage user concerns

The uproar could also prove to be a double-edged sword for Intel's rivals. Some of the anger over Intel's attempt to downplay the flaw could lead to greater scrutiny of emerging Pentium-class chips from companies such as Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. and Cyrix Corp.

By mid-1995, both AMD and Cyrix are scheduled to start volume shipments of their K5 and M1 families of Pentium-class chips.

#### Cray Research overhauls management team

By Craig Stedman

The other shoe just dropped at Cray Research, Inc.

After starting a manufacturing overhaul in September to speed turnaround times on its systems, this month Cray announced a far-reaching management reorganization. The changes include the retirement of its chief operating officer and the melding of its commercial market operations into a single business unit.

Cray said the sales forces for its various products will also be eombined into a single organization to present a unified face to customers. Meanwhile, corporate marketing will be separated from sales and handled by a new group. It is expected to be run by an outsider to be named later.

Both the manufacturing and

management reorganizations are aimed at getting Cray more in step with today's computer market. Flat demand for its big supercomputers, coupled with increased competition from Unix systems and clustered workstations, forced Cray to abandon its old marketing strategy, "build it and they will come," according to both analysts and company officials.

#### **Changing of the guard**

The management changes should produce a more aggressive company in which engineers no longer call all the shots, said Debra Goldfarb, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

"There has always been tremendous tension in the organization between engineering and marketing, with the technical people having the upper

hand," Goldfarb said. "But this restructuring completely shifts the tables."

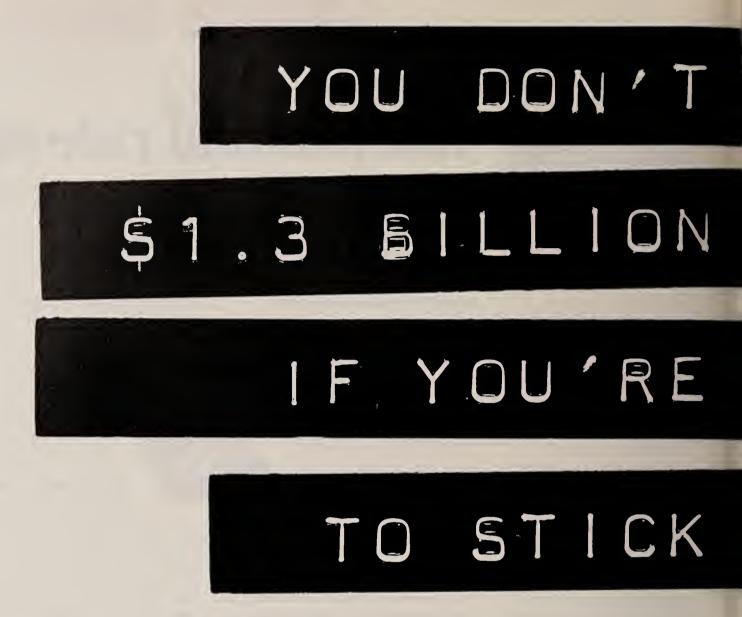
Gary Smaby, president of The Smaby Group, Inc. in Minneapolis, agreed that the Dec. 31 retirement of Lester Davis as Cray's COO "will certainly change the cultural skew of the company."

Davis, who will also resign from the board of directors, oversaw the design and manufacturing of each Cray machine since the company was founded in 1972. By contrast, his designated replacement, Robert Ewald, is "more of a corporate manager than a designer himself," Smaby said.

Cray said the departure of Davis was "coincidental" to the other management changes. But a spokesman acknowledged that the company is trying to give marketing more weight in the organization.

Cray's revenue and profits increased in the first three quarters of 1994, but incoming orders dropped from \$483 million in the same period of 1993 to \$311 million. Goldfarb said 1995 is likely to be "an extremely tough year" for Cray because of fiercer market competition and product transition issues as it introduces a new high-end supercomputer.

As part of the reorganization, Cray formed a new Business Systems Division to spearhead its commercial market development activities. Included in the unit are the company's Sun Microsystems, Inc. SPARC-based superserver operation, a group working on decision-support applications and Savant/Cray Solutions, a recently acquired integrator of data warchouse systems.



This may be stating the obvious, but sometimes, it's worth stating the obvious. We've observed that the most successful companies out there—companies like Ford, AT&T, General Electric—have one thing in common.

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These technologies are leading the way for everything from video-on-demand and home shopping to interactive education. Our commitment to R&D remains unchanged at Digital. What has changed is our way of going about it. It used to be that the hardest part of R&D here wasn't coming up with the ideas. It was pushing them through the system.

So, we've changed the system. From one of Byzantine complexity, to one of resolute clarity. What exists today at Digital is a system where the scientific and pragmatic go hand in hand. A system in which ideas are born and nurtured not just to promote innovation for innovation's sake, but rather, to help customers in real, meaningful ways.

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#### Editorial

#### Wish list

To: Santa Claus Fr: Bill Laberis Re: Lost Xmas list

This list must have fallen from the briefcase of an IS director at a recent conference, where I found it on the floor. I'm forwarding it to you.

Dear Santa—

For starters, my peers and I would like some respect. While we're trying to create order from chaos, we have renegade user departments rolling their own, and my boss is blaming me for skimpy increases in productivity. So one in four people like me gets fired every year.

The next thing is related to the first: I'd like more integrity and honesty from vendors and less hype. My boss thinks client/scrver systems are a snap because salespeople did an end run and went right to him. They told him Cobol is a 19th century tool, I told him

wc have very few 21st century programmer/artisans. He didn't care.

Then I'd like a version of Net-Ware 4.x, complete with batteries. And please don't deliver a version that will only force me to stand in those endless return lines at Toys R Us.

Could I also have a nice PC with lots of chip-level logic so I can figure out some of these

systems software licensing deals? I thought it was hard figuring out how you know where all of us live, but that's child's play compared with sorting out these deals and schemes.

I have thousands of Windows users, and they are all going to want Windows 95 if and when it ships next year. I have very little training money, so could you possibly deliver a version of the software that is virtually self-teaching and totally backward-compatible? No? Well, OK then, how about a weekend with Cindy Crawford now that she's on her own?

You are not the subversive type, I realize, but might you consider infecting all hard drives with an anti-Doom virus? Or maybe have the screen saver pop up every time a programmer logs in to alt.sex.fetish on the Internet? We really need to get some work done around here.

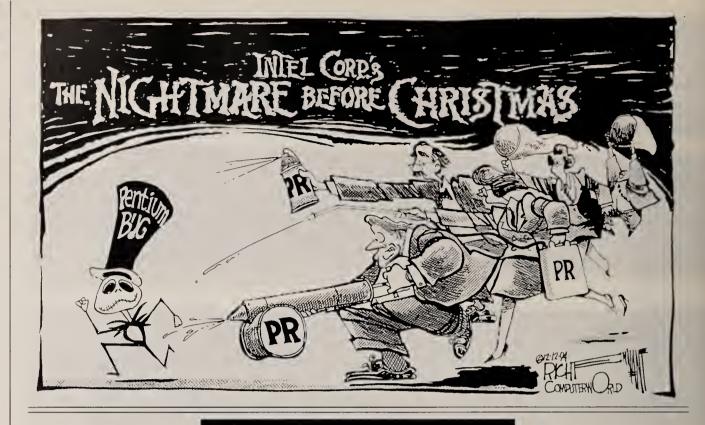
Turnabout is fair play, so how about throwing the eonsulting companies that so ardently push the nukethe-existing-IS-operations re-engineering mantra into a re-engineering tailspin of their own? They'll be so busy cleaning up the mess that they won't have time to bother us.

And finally, I'd like you to bless me with the technical knowledge of Leonardo da Vinci, the business acumen of John D. Rockefeller, the negotiating skills of Henry Kissinger and the people skills of Dr. Ruth. That seems to be what it takes to succeed these days. Barring that, is there anything available up your way?

Sincerely, Jim



Bill Laberis, Editor in Chief Internet: blaberis(acw.com



#### Letters to the editor

#### Tech tools *do* give us more time

Patricia Seybold made a great point about knowledge workers being both enabled and overwhelmed by their technology environments ["Why isn't information technology giving us more time?" CW, Nov. 14]. But let's not be confused about why we're working as hard as we are. The stress in our lives has to do with economic forces far beyond the scope of software and hardware.

I need to make more money because my taxes are up, my home is no longer appreciating in value, lousy public schools force me to send my kids elsewhere, I have no faith in the Social Security system, etc. Business is also more competitive because technology allows more companies to go after my customers, and it makes it easier for my customers to choose from geographically distant vendors.

Personally, I don't blame my tech tools for the challenges of my work life. As a matter of fact, without them I don't think I'd have *any* time to eat, sleep, work out or play with the kids.

Lenny Liebmann Highlands, N.J.

#### DOS is the problem

Another "news" story about a virus infection ["Die Hard 2 virus attacks PC productivity," CW, Oct. 31]. More than 100 PCs crippled in a San Diego LAN. More talk of religious use of virus scanners and general indignation.

Sigh.

Here we have a sophisticated

government network of 500 PCs that doesn't seem to realize the ramifications of using an unprotected system such as DOS. And we have a major industry journal that doesn't report the incident as a failure of DOS.

It's time we face up to the fact that the 640K limit is no longer justification for tolerating DOS. Protected operating systems and file systems have been around for decades; instead of writing virus scanner policies, let's move our infrastructure into the '70s.

Peter Kron Seattle

#### Not too bright

James Johnson had to go to the far side to come up with an example of a "bright side" of client/server technology ["Client/server pandemonium," CW, Nov. 14]. To use an example of changing from a manual system to a computerized solution and then crediting its success to client/server implementation is stretching the point.

There are any number of offthe-shelf, shrink-wrapped software solutions to perform financial applications and order entry on the legacy system in question. I suspect the company would have spent less money on hardware/software acquisition and training and achieved essentially the same productivity gains had it followed this more traditional route.

James S. DeNatale Director, data center research The Clipper Group Wellesley, Mass.

#### Client/server didn't bounce everybody

"The clicnt/server shuffle" [CW, Sept. 26] was for the most part an accurate description of changes in Lincoln National Corp.'s information systems operations.

However, the article said that during the past three years "half the IS staff ... found themselves out the door." While it is true that we have reduced IS staff by half, it is not true that all of those employees found themselves out the door — many found jobs in other areas of the corporation.

Second, and more important, the reductions were not solely due to implementation of client/server technology. While client/server has enabled end users to do many of the things they previously relied on IS for, the reduction of jobs was influenced largely by the sale of a major business unit in 1992.

Bob Malik Senior vice president Information services Lincoln National Corp. Fort Wayne, Ind.



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#### The wild, wild East

#### Ted Lewis

ut of Delta Air Lines Flight 60 and into the grimy terminal where the drinking water is more dangerous than the KGB, I shuffled my way through rows of high-tech client/scrver systems to verify my status as a passenger from Frankfurt. These systems were run by the Russian cast of Frank Herbert's Dune, but the operators were supervised by Delta employees who pointed out which buttons to push and demonstrated good old Western customer-is-always-right attitudes. This would make Tom Peters smile, I thought, as the clerk asked me in perfect English how long I was staying in Moscow, what my business was and how much money I had. Blunt but efficient.

My Russian hosts picked me up at the airport and transported me in the lap of Lada luxury to town. Along the way I saw a black Mercedes limo pull up and four New Russians in Nike sweats and Reeboks step out to do business with roadside entrepreneurs. Protection business, according to my hosts, who merely smiled. Do you want to pay taxes or get your money's worth from the mob? Do business with Yeltsin, and it's money down the drain. Do business with what people just know are ex-KGBers, and you make the right connections.

You want a good deal on a computer? A network? A link to the Internet? Guess who the capitalists are in the former Soviet Union?

Russia is the land of socialists-turned-capi-

talists, yet-to-be-made J. P. Morgans and paper-and-peneil legacy systems. What a gold mine for IS! No IBM/Cobol glass house, no multivendor networks and no installed base of Notes users to worry about.

Just think: Your time machine lands in 1930 stuffed with 1990s technology. Your mission is

to bring industry into the 21st century before it gets buried in radical reform. Your labor force is exceptionally well educated and cheap.

You don't have to roll out an ancient IBM or Digital legacy system before you roll in that nifty Microsoft Windows NT server because there is no IBM, Digital, Unisys, Sun or Apple. No installed base, but you can buy almost

any computer you want. No hierarchy of bureaucrats to answer to. Just you and the mob.

A good IS shop could clean up. No need to waste valuable resources converting from Novell to TCP/IP to Banvan's Vines, Novell's CC:Mail, Microsoft's Exchange, Apple's Power-Talk and X.500. They don't exist yet. No need to buy 10 middleware pieces to solve the puzzle of getting data from warehouse to desktop. No need to argue the merits of DOS, Windows, Macintosh, OS/2 Presentation Manager or Motif. As the ezar of Russia, Inc., you can select the best and the latest hardware and software. It will plug and play and slice and dice because

> you control all the business processes, interfaces, dards, vendors and decisions.

Maybe the Russians have something we don't: less regulation, less bureaucracy, less installed base, less legacy with which to deal. Perhaps, but my guess is that the land of St. George the dragon slayer will have to slay the legacy dragon just like

the rest of us in 10 years. I have seen a whole new generation of legacy systems under construction. It was kind of exciting.

Lewis is chairman of computer science at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and editor in chief of Computer magazine.



Apple.

nifty Windows NT server because there is no IBM, Digital, Unisys, Sun or

You don't have to

ancient IBM or

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#### The real value of client/server

#### Max D. Hopper

ecently in this column ["Fashions in technology: Are your IS solutions PC?" CW, Aug. 1], I took issue with those who promulgate the notion that the networked small systems distributed architectures known as client/server will soon replace mainframe-based systems.

Centralized processing and mainframelevel capacities are so intrinsie to the nature

of many core business systems that no total replacement scenario is likely to be cost-effective or functionally capable.

Those who deify small systems and damn existing systems have framed their views in terms of such specious questions as, "Are

your systems mainframe-eentrie or PCcentric?" I would suggest that the appropriate view should be network-centric. This architectural approach draws upon the entire spectrum of technologies, using each where it makes the most sense and allowing them to work together.

Viewed from this perspective, the greatest

immediate strengths of small systems are complementary ones. They offer capabilities and benefits beyond what our existing systems deliver. In fact, many companies use the nimble new client/server technologies to breathe new life into their systems. By applying client/server tools, we can break our core business systems out of the glass house and extend them into the workplace with application-specific interfaces that reduce training time and invite

It will be a world

multiple clients

multiple servers

per server but

not just of

broader access.

The immediate value of small, networked tools lies in their ability to integrate information technology with the way people work. Systems should aecept input from a varicty of devices, thus allowing users to capture data where it

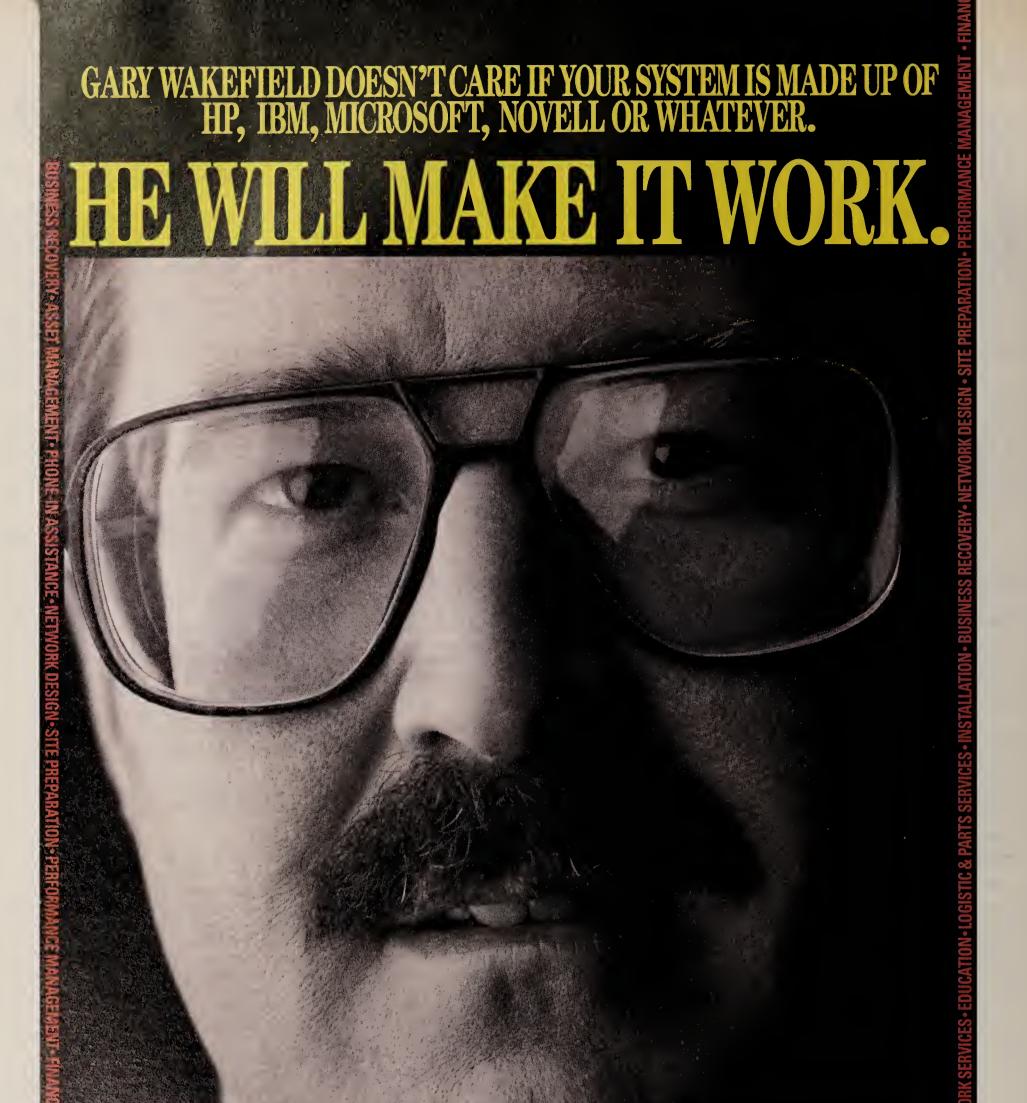
is generated or request information via tools that are consistent with their skill sets and individual needs. Likewise, system output should not be data but answers — more pertinent, personalized and timely information presented in a variety of forms, each appropriate to the information context and relevant to the frame of reference to maximize productivity.

Small system technologies allow us to approach these ideals. Compared with previous approaches, they enable us to provide more intuitive solutions and meet users more on human terms instead of forcing them to emulate machines. The system interface activity becomes a seamless part of the work process, end to end, as opposed to a handoff or interruption in the workflow.

The corporate network environment that embodies these attributes will typically involve multiple computing devices working together. It will be a world not just of multiple clients per server but multiple servers per client.

As technology costs decline, another aspect of these myriad network links will be multiple clients per user — a diverse array of stationary and mobile devices tailored to both business and individual needs for ubiquitous access to system resources. The servers will encompass processing platforms of every scale as the needs of the specific business dictate. And business imperatives alone will dictate whether any given data set is dispersed, distributed or centralized. In short, while client/server approaches are not the new paradigm of enterprise computing, per se, they will play an instrumental role in any IS strategy that hopes to achieve maximum business advantage.

Hopper is chairman of AMR Corp.'s The Sabre Group.



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#### Windows 95: Pains bring gains

#### System deemed functional, clean, potent

PRODUCT TEST-DRIVE

By Garrett N. Ray

Good-bye program manager. Sayonara Program Information File (PIF) editor. Adios DOS. Hello Win-

To call Microsoft Corp.'s nascent replacement of Windows 3.1 a mere upgrade is to believe that similar names imply similar products. In fact, a test of the M7 beta version of Windows 95 shows that it shares little with the current

Windows other than its name, application compatibility and general operating characteristics. The finished product is scheduled to be released in the first half of next year.

A from-the-ground-up overhaul of the decade-old combination of MS-DOS and Windows, Windows 95 is a clean, functional and potent operating system for desktop (and laptop) systems.

Windows 95 is the realization of a goal that Microsoft officials have been discussing for at least five years: the total abolishment of DOS. It is a sensible and long-needed banishment because DOS has saddled Windows with the evils of eight-character file names, terminate-and-stay resident device drivers, incompetent multitasking and other inefficiencies stemming from its circa-1983 heritage.

But no more. First, DOS is no longer a separate component of the operating system. It remains as a Windows 95 facility that can run DOS programs, drivers, the DOS shell and the DOS command line, but it is no longer the architectural foundation of Windows.

AUTOEXEC.BAT and CON-FIG.SYS, while they can be used to maintain compatibility, are no

> longer necessary to make Windows work. Also important is that with the widespread and almost obligatory use of Intel Corp. 80386 and 1486 processors on the desktop, Microsoft

designed a Windows that makes extensive use of the Intel 386/486 and Pentium "protected mode" to improve a wide array of multitasking and device-management func-

Windows 95 won't work at all on those old 80286 boxes, by the way, so consider making your taxdeductible equipment donations by next summer.

Where does protected mode help? Take network management. For years, information systems personnel have navigated between the Scylla of network driv-



Microsoft's Windows 95 presents a generic Start button as the point of entry to a hierarchical menu of applications

Windows 95 is the realization of a goal that Microsoft officials have been discussing for at least five years: the total abolishment of DOS. It is a sensible and longneeded banishment because DOS has limited Windows in many respects.

ers and the Charybdis of limited PC memory. Add a new network protocol to the organization, such as TCP/IP, and crash into the 640K barrier of the old "conventional memory" space.

The more drivers you add to your systems, the less conventional memory is available to application programs. It's ludicrous but true that both network and organizational flexibility have been greatly constrained by the 640K conventional memory space invented for the 8086 microprocessor more than a decade ago.

Windows 95, because it implements network, storage and other device drivers as 32-bit "virtual" code, finally unshackles IS from the 640K limitation. Install all the protocols you need. They'll work just fine. (And many, including IPX/SPX and TCP/IP, are included

with Windows 95.)

The DOS/Windows combination also has forced on users a form of pseudo-multitasking that has been properly exorcised from Windows 95.

Support nightmares will be greatly reduced with the threaded, pre-emptive multitasking architecture of Windows 95. Rather than seize monolithic control of the entire PC, threaded applications can spawn smaller and more manageable tasks to the operating system, which in turn can decide which threads need immediate attention. In the long run, all resident applications should get the attention they deserve under Windows 95.

#### Visible changes

That's the theory behind Windows 95, and in our testing of beta version M7, it seems to work quite well. But what about tangible enhancements?

Experienced Windows users will note an immediate and dramatic difference in the appearance, operation and usability of Windows 95 compared with Windows 3.1.

The mass of folders, icons and sometimes-bafflingWindowsfacilities that users tried to surmount with a variety of add-on desktop management programs have been rethought and revamped. Rather than a cluttered desktop, Windows

Windows 95, page 44

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#### Apple's System 7.5 trumpeted for ease of use

QuickDraw GX and PowerTalk viewed as downsides of operating system

By Mark Halper

Early reaction to Apple Computer, Inc.'s System 7.5 operating system has been decidedly mixed.

Users have been disappointed in 7.5's ballyhooed QuickDraw GX graphics and PowerTalk communications features but said the 3-month-old update to System 7.1 has held true to Apple's hallmark of making computers easier to use.

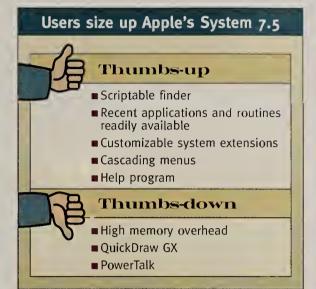
Built-in utilities, search mechanisms, cascading menus and an enhanced help program have significantly reduced the time spent searching drives and directories and installing programs, users said.

"They've automated a lot of tasks that you do and made it easier for you to figure out how to do them," said Bob Duffy, MIS manager at Palo Alto, Calif.-based Cornish & Carey Residential Real Estate. "I don't have to go into my hard drive anymore because the things I always use or used recently are in my menu. They've made it easy for me to get to where I want to go."

Among the features users praised were 7.5's "recent documents," "recent applications" and "recent servers," which let users call up recently used programs and routines without burrowing into directories and subdirectories.

#### Less typing, more options

Along the same lines, 7.5's tumbling menus give users more task options with fewer keystrokes and less human recall of file names and routines. Users also said they benefited from 7.5's "scriptable



finder," which allows them to automate systems and software tasks.

"It's really handy — the way you don't have to remember anything — because I invariably forget," noted Roger Bundy, director of computing services at Irvine, Calif.-based Taco Bell Corp. Taco Bell is running 7.5 on about 30 of its 600 Macintoshes. Most of the 30 are Power Macintoshes purchased with 7.5 already installed, Bundy said.

The resounding hurrahs were offset by an equally loud Bronx cheer. "Generally speaking, 7.5 has been no problem whatsoever as long as you stay away from QuickDraw GX and PowerTalk," Bundy said. "Both are memory hogs, and there's not a lot of applications that go with them." Many 7.5 users have chosen not to install QuickDraw GX or PowerTalk.

QuickDraw GX marks a technology

leap over the earlier QuickDraw by permitting real-time onscreen color mixing and letterby-letter ligature and font adjustment. It also gives greater flexibility in printer selection. PowerTalk enables users to receive electronic mail, bulletin board messages, faxes, voice mail and other communication from a single location.

#### **Memory burdens**

But users noted that QuickDraw GX and PowerTalk suffer from high overhead — Apple recommends 16M bytes of memory for systems loaded with the features

[CW, July 18] — and a dearth of applications that take advantage of the features.

System 7.5 product manager Andy Hammond noted that Apple is developing lower-memory versions of the technologies but declined to say when they will become available.

PowerTalk product manager Vince Hunt disputed user claims that Power-Talk does not have adequate third-party support, noting that it ties into messaging products from Microsoft Corp. and WordPerfect, the Novell, Inc. Applications Group, as well as the CompuServe bulletin board. It does, however, still lack a gateway for Lotus Development Corp.'s CC:Mail, he noted.

QuickDraw GX users have also reported that the feature often fails to work correctly because of incompatibilities between its drivers and previously

installed printer drivers.

"They all have to be in sync with one another, and I'm not sure they are," said Duffy, who added that he recently lost page settings during an envelope printing exercise with QuickDraw GX. "If I can't get it to work, I'm not going to ask our [real estate] agents to use it.'

QuickDraw GX product manager Ron Fernandez said users can switch out of it on an application-by-application basis. While only a few third-party vendors exploit QuickDraw GX, support will burgeon in the next six months, he claimed. noting that the feature will enable even low-end applications to run sophisticated colors and fonts.

"We're still not recommending 7.5 internally," said Phillip Corchary, network systems analyst at US West Marketing Resources Group in Omaha, a US West, Inc. subsidiary. "PowerTalk doesn't buy us anything because the major messaging vendors aren't doing anything with it. And QuickDraw is somewhat problematic in a complex graphic environment."

Corchary and other users such as Valerie Takumoto, a technical staff member at The Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo, Calif., noted that even without Quick-Draw GX and PowerTalk, System 7.5 is memory-demanding.

Takumoto said a trim version of 7.5 she loaded on an Apple IICI uses 3.7M bytes of memory. "That's about a megabyte above System 7," she said.

Duffy said the silver lining to the memory requirements is that System 7.5 permits users to turn system extension features on and off for a given session, which spares memory.

Comdex/Fall'94

#### Lost in the commotion: Product debuts that users may have missed

By Stuart J. Johnston

In the constant din of vendors hawking their wares and the 190,000 or so attendees shuffling from booth to booth at Comdex/Fall '94 last month, several smaller but notable systems announcements nearly got lost in the shuffle.

IBM showed off its OS/2 for PowerPC, formerly known as the WorkPlace OS for PowerPC with an OS/2 "personality." The company plans to release the first beta this month and a second beta in the first quarter of next year. Final shipment will be completed by "midyear," said Wally Casey, director of marketing at IBM's Personal Software Products division.

Taligent, Inc. announced a new name for its Taligent Applications Environment, formerly called TalAE. The set of extensible object-oriented application frameworks is now called CommonPoint, said Joe Gugliclmi, Taligent's chairman and chief executive officer.

At the same time, Taligent announced a certification and branding program for applications developed using CommonPoint. Pro-

PC operating system shipments				
	1993	1994*	1995*	1996*
Windows**	24.4M	35.1M	43.3M	53.4M
Windows NT	286,000	330,000	450,000	675,000
DOS	16M	8.4M	5M	660,000
Macintosh	3.7M	4.1M	5M	6M
OS/2	984,000	1.1M	1.2M	1.4M
Unix	824,000	905,000	996,000	1.1M

Source: PaineWebber, Inc., New York, and corporate reports

grams that pass a comprehensive verification suite test will be allowed to use the logo.

Taligent also presented target delivery dates for CommonPoint. "We expect to ship beta [code] to the investors by the end of this year and the final code in the first quarter" of next year, Guglielmi said. Version 1.0 of Common-Point is scheduled for release on operating systems from the investors - IBM, Apple Computcr, Inc. and Hewlett-Packard Co. — in the third quarter of next year, he added. Those operating

#### Millions sold

IBM has shipped more than 7 million units of OS/2 2.x and OS/2 Warp, said Lee Reiswig, president of the Personal Software Products division.

systems will include IBM's OS/2 and AIX, Apple's Mac OS and HP's HP/UX.

Meanwhile, Taligent's own operating system, called TalOS, "is currently staged for early 1996 [with] the beta in late 1995," Guglielmi said. It will use the same microkernel as IBM's WorkPlace OS. Two other Taligent products,

TalDE (Development Environment) and TalUI Builder (User Interface Builder), will go into beta testing "around the beginning of the second quarter," he added.

Microsoft Corp. will begin a third beta release of Windows 95, also referred to as the Preview program, early next year that will go out to as many as 300,000 to 400,000 users, said Brad Silverberg, vice president of the Personal Systems division. The second beta began last month and went

out to 30,000 to 40,000 users.

Users can purchase Beta 3 for "around \$30, which is the cost of goods," or the cost to manufacture and ship the beta, one Microsoft official said. The fee will not be applied toward purchase of the final version of Windows 95 when it ships in the first half of 1995, and the Beta 3 eode may include a software timer to disable the system when it reaches an expiration datc. Street price for Windows 95 will be "under \$100," Silverberg said.

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#### Windows 95

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

95 presents a generic Start button as the point of entry to a hierarchical menu of applications and documents.

On installation, the menu is automatically created from existing Windows 3.x Program Manager files (although this installation function did not work in our beta-test version).

"Shortcuts" — which appear on the desktop as ieons — can easily be added to the main desktop or to any other program folder for single-click access to both documents and applications. Shortcuts can also be embedded in other doeuments and shared by users through Email or networked applications.

IS staff will appreciate the array of enhancements that bolster system administration and support. For example, the klunky PIF sehema has been replaced with property sheets, which provide instant and editable configuration data on applications and system resources.

#### Databases without fear

The horrors of multiple .1N1 files are supplanted with a new Registry database, which tracks user and system information. The Plug and Play feature of Windows 95 — which automatically configures the operating system to use various system hardware — seems to handle many of the areane configuration issues that are vexing to users and support

The Policy Editor allows custom configuration of individual and groups of machines by systems administrators. Finally, Windows 95 is inherently a Simple

#### Colonial newspaper to be put on CD-ROM

One small company is bringing history up to date. Accessible Archives in Malvern, Pa., creates fully scarchable CD-ROMs from historical documents, allowing historians to take a breather from lengthy searches through archives.

The company is halfway through digitizing the Pennsylvania Gazette, an 18th century newspaper that today exists as only eight or 10 closely guarded original sets and perhaps 100 microfilm copies. The CD-ROM includes text as well as images such as advertisements.

The Philadelphia weekly was owned by Ben Franklin for 40 years and was the premier colonial newspaper.

"I think it's a wonderful resource," said Jean Soderlund, professor of history at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. "There's a wealth of information in

Next month, Accessible Archives will release on CD-ROM a cumulative index of Niles' Register, a 19th century weekly newspaper that covered national and foreign news, a spokesman said.

-- IDG News Service

Network Management Protocol client, so remote monitoring and management is possible.

In short, there is much here for system administrators that should radically diminish not just support time but also the frustration and hair pulling of tailoring multiple Windows configurations on dozens or thousands of machines. Centralized and logical system support is one of the big gains that any Windows 95 organization will quiekly realize.

Any review of Windows 95 is bound to be a more snapshot of this revamped operating system. However, there is one eritical set of issues that may go overlooked beneath all the new features and functions: Windows 95, while destined to add new functionality and flexibility to users' organizations, will also place a burden on them (and IS staff) to learn an entirely new operating system.

You'll gain a lot by so doing, but don't let anyone say the transition from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 will be simple, flawless or even cheap. You'll be unshackled from the crude and klutzy legacy of DOS, but you'll have a heck of a lot to learn, a heek of a lot to reorganize and a heck of a lot to rethink about your enduser management functions. Does the adage "no pain, no gain" come to mind? Stock up on coffee and aspirin.

Ray is a systems consultant based in Boston and Washington.

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#### New Products

Micrografx, Inc. has announced ABC SnapGraphics 2.0, graphics software for Windows.

According to the Richardson, Texas, firm, ABC SnapGraphics 2.0 lets users add diagrams to presentations, reports and other documents and integrates with users' existing software.

The product includes automated features to simplify the creation of organization charts, flowcharts, project timelines and other diagrams. SnapSteps give users step-by-step instructions during the creation process.

ABC SnapGraphics costs \$49.

*Micrografx* (214) 234-1769

Management Information Technologies, Inc. has announced ConSearch

3.0 for Windows, information retrieval software.

According to the Commack, N.Y., company, ConSearch 3.0 for Windows reads text directly in most original application formats and recognizes and relates ideas in English, French and German.

The product understands relationships between words and locates and displays specific data for the user, even if the user does not know the exact words or context used in the document.

ConSearch 3.0 for Windows costs \$495.

► Management Information Technologies

(516) 231-1254

Proportional Software has announced Compression Plus, compression software for OS/2.

According to the Fort Collins, Colo., firm, Compression Plus lets users control which programs and data files are moved to compressed storage.

The product includes a Virtual Disk-Sampler, a ready-to-use compressed drive filled with OS/2 icons, bit maps, backgrounds and utilities.

Compression Plus costs \$179.

➤ Proportional Software (303) 484-2665

Champion Duplicators, Inc. has rolled out DiskCopier 2000, a disk duplicator.

According to the Fremont, Calif., company, DiskCopier 2000 formats blank disks, copies the master disk to the blanks and verifies each copied disk.

The product can duplicate as many as 40 disks without operator attendance.

DiskCopier 2000 costs \$1,895.

► Champion Duplicators (510) 651-1934

**Genicom Corp.** has announced the Genicom 7612 printer.

According to the Chantilly, Va., company, the Genicom 7612 provides 600 dot/in. resolution with high-resolution control enhancement and prints 12 pages per minute. Included are a 150-sheet multipurpose paper tray and a 500-sheet adjustable paper drawer. Envelopes and legal sheets are handled without additional options. The printer comes with a high-speed bidirectional parallel port and serial port and provides automatic port and emulation switching.

The Genicom 7612 costs \$1,649.

► Genicom (703) 802-9200

**3M Optical** Systems has announced the PF50, a notebook privacy filter.

According to the Roseville, Minn., company, the PF50 protects confidential information on a notebook from being seen in public places.

The filter, which weighs less than 1 pound, includes an antiglare feature that improves contrast and reduces glare.

The PF50 costs \$119.

**▶** 3M Optical Systems (612) 736-7646

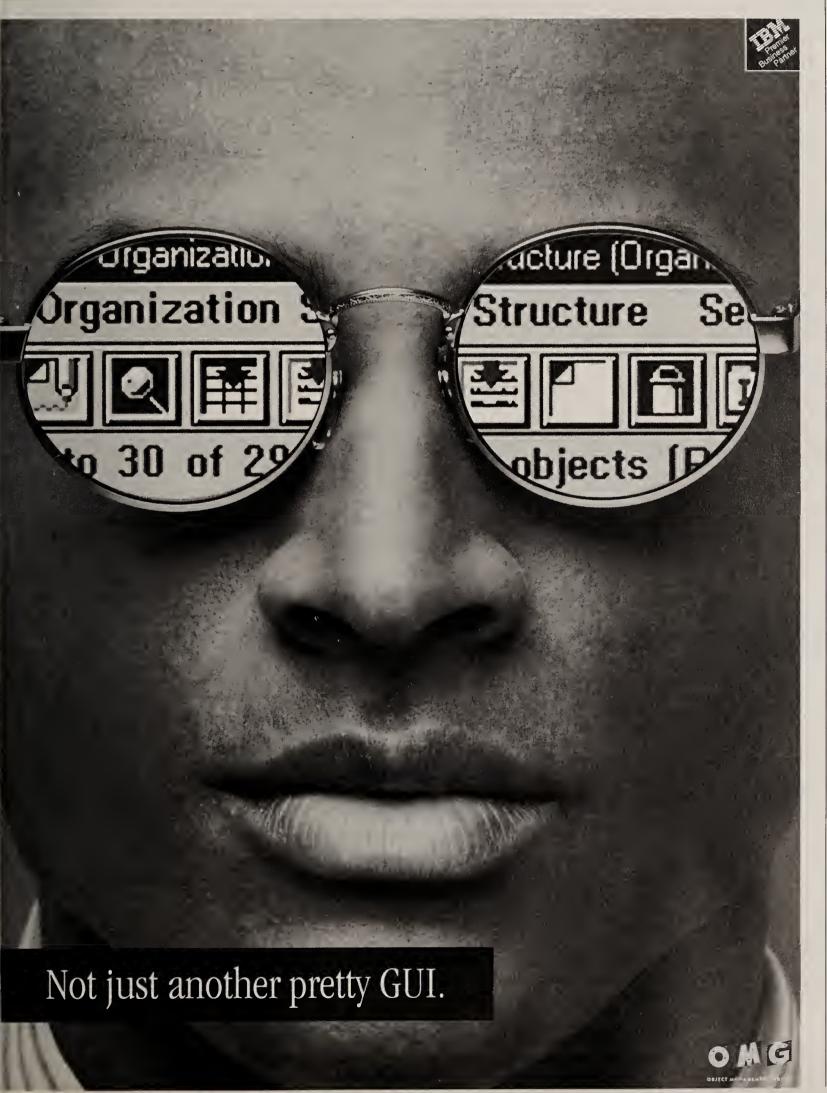
Wyse Technology, Inc. has announced WX-15, a serial-connected X terminal.

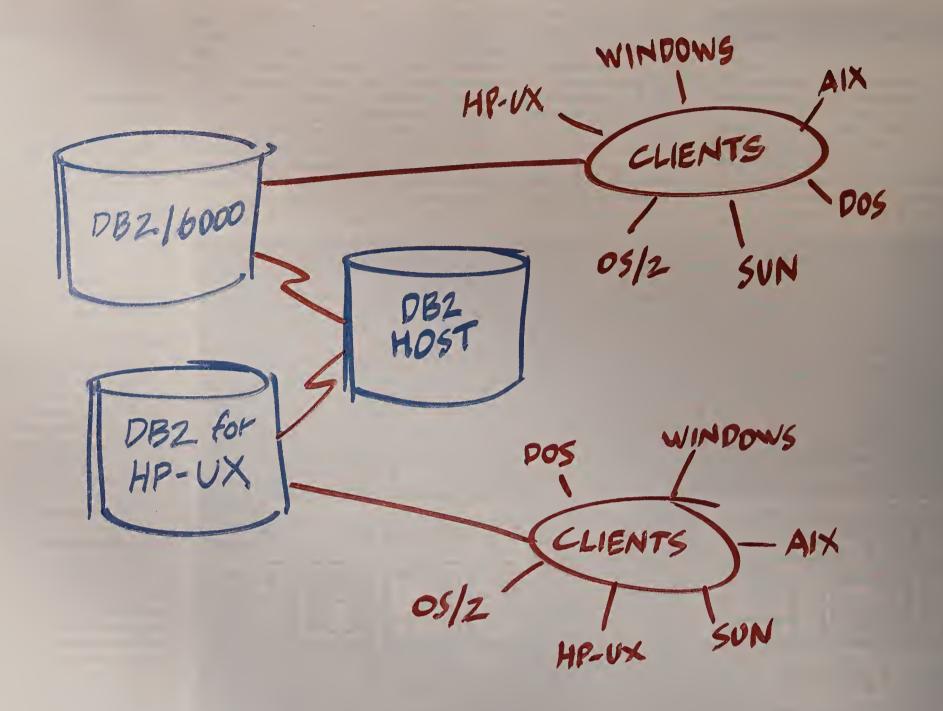
According to the San Jose, Calif., company, WX-15 features a 14-in. monochrome display and was designed for users of character-based terminals who want to take advantage of the graphic interface capabilities of an X terminal.

In X-compatible mode, the product communicates over a standard serial line with a host containing the serial X server software module. The mode features 800-by 600-pixel resolution.

WX-15 costs \$695.

► Wyse Technology (408) 473-1200





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### Workgroup Computing

SYNTRA EASES PAPER CHASE, 51

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#### Clone makers stray from SPARC

Some look for new technology to broaden markets

By Jean S. Bozman

Sun Microsystems, Inc. casts a mighty long shadow in the SPARC-compatible marketplace. Sun has more than 90% of the market built around its SPARC RISC microprocessor. But analysts say Sun may pay a heavy price for its clear dominance: The loyalty of some of its SPARC clone makers is wavering.

In recent years, lagging SuperSPARC chip performance has slowly eroded the number of vendors participating in the SPARC-compatible marketplace, although the number of workstations and servers shipped has continued to rise.

Clone makers are still selling a wide variety of SPARC units, from portables to desktops to superservers. But some, including Integrix, Inc. and Auspex Systems, Inc., have recently announced the substitution of compatible, high-powered HyperSPARC chips from Ross Technologies, lnc., a Fujitsu Ltd. subsidiary.

#### Cray holds back

However, Cray Research, Inc.'s superservers division will wait for a power boost from Sun's 64-bit UltraSPARC chip next year, said Shahin Khan, marketing programs manager at the Cray unit in Beaverton, Ore. "We don't go headto-head with Sun at all," Khan explained. "We start where they leave off." Cray sells highend SPARC machines with up to 64 SPARC CPUs.

In recent weeks, several clone makers have openly said they are searching for new technology to broaden their market. Adding support for other

chips "is very much a possibility," said Carl Baldini, vice president of engineering at RDl Computer Corp. in Carlsbad, Calif., a maker of portable SPARC-based

> units. "We are considering those kinds of options.'

End users of SPARC-compatible systems may well remain in the Sun market, analysts said, because users' applications run under Sun's SunOS/Solaris 1.x or Solaris 2.x operatplications for Solaris, including about 3,000 for Solaris 2.x. For example, the Houston Chronicle uses 225 Tatung Science & Technology, Inc. workstations to complement its use of Sun servers for editorial applications.

Cyrix Corp. in Richardson, Texas, uses 100 Tatung SPARC clones to support engineers' computer-aided design applications under SunOS for chip design. "Performance is basically identical, and the price and service are much better," said

Sun, page 51

#### Sun branches out

t the Comdex/Fall '94 trade show last month in Las Vegas, Tatung Science & Technology demonstrated a PowerPC-based unit that runs Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT.

Kam Cham, the Tatung division's president, said he still plans to use faster SPARC chips, including the SuperSPARC II and 64-bit UltraSPARC, both due next year. But a move to Windows NT and the IBM/Motorola PowerPC on some workstations will broaden the firm's reach beyond its technical user base and into the commercial market, he said.

ing systems. There are roughly 9,000 ap-

Jason Lo, president of Integrix in Newbury Park, Calif., said his firm competes with Sun on performance. Now, the company is looking to new chips to gain more sales, he said. "We have no firm plans at the present time for Ultra-SPARC," Lo said. "We are seriously studying the opportunity on PowerPC with Windows NT." Integrix will also explore using Sun's Solaris operating system on PowerPC units, he said.

To meet clone makers' growing interest in Windows NT, Sun's SPARC

Technology Business chip division in Sunnyvale, Calif., is building NT support into the 64-bit UltraSPARC chip. Although Sun's Unix software competes head-on with Windows NT, pragmatism drove the decision, said Bill Raduchel, Sun's chief information officer and technology strategist. "We want to be a chip supplier and people in the market want it - not only workstation vendors, but server vendors," he said. But Raduchel, who participates in Sun's strategic planning, said Sun is far from deciding to ship its own NT-compatible systems.

-Jean S. Bozman

#### Xcellenet eases management with RemoteWare 2.0

By Michael Fitzgerald

Xcellenet, Inc.'s upgrade of its RemoteWare product, Version 2.0, should turn heads at corporations that want to better manage their remote users.

Analysts say the Atlanta-based software

maker, which combines middleware and distributed application software and calls it "fieldware," currently occupies a unique niche in the software world.

"They don't have any competition that I can think of," said Samuel May, an analyst at The Yankee Group in Bos-

May said RemoteWare effectively operates as a variant of Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes groupware

package but for remote users. He said Xcellenet could be a highly successful company if it figures out how to effectively package and market its product.

"This is not selling Notes to white-collar people sitting in tall buildings in Boston, New York and Los Angeles. This is selling it to people sitting out in Denny's restaurants and Jiffy Lubes," May said.

RemoteWare is targeted at Fortune 1,000 companies. One of Xcellenet's main goals is to give information systems staffs more flexibility, company officials said.

"We wanted to give the central network administrator more ability to do things," said Sami B. Jajeh, manager of market development at Xcellenet.

Field support RemoteWare gives remote users access to servers for groupware-like computing APPLICATION CLIENT APPLICATION SERVER Mainframe COMMUNICATIONS CLIENT Public network RemoteWare server

> Users said Version 2.0 addressed many of their wants for RemoteWare.

'With 2.0, they offered me about five things l could use," said Dean T. Thompson, retail systems manager at BP Oil, Inc. in Cleveland. Thompson cited object technology, doubling the number of users per server from 16 to 32, improved security, multiprotocol support and support for X.400.

Version 2.0 has drawn interest from outside Xcellenet's customer base.

"We are looking at [Xcellenet]," said Dayakar Veerlapati, a research analyst at Union Pacific Technologies in St. Louis. With Remote-Ware, a company can set up a predefined call schedule in which a server calls a phone number during the night, "wakes up" an attached

notebook and synchronizes files between the two platforms, Veerlapati said. The server then leaves a record for the user to review in the morning. Union Pacific Technologies could also use this facility to update software programs remotely.

Veerlapati said one obstacle for Xcellenct at Union Pacific Technologies is that the company already uses Notes, which dupli-

cates some RemoteWare functions.

Different configurations of RemoteWare will be available when the product ships later this month. A base configuration costs \$302 per uscr for a 100-user sitc, \$174 per user for a 500user site and \$131 per user for a 2,000-user site. The highest level costs \$787 per user for 100 users, \$501 per user for 200 users and \$353 per user for 2,000 users.

#### It's in there

Xcellenet has 600 customers with 189,000 users for its RemoteWare product. Version 2.0 is a complete reworking of the IBM OS/2-based server product and includes the following:

- A 32-bit architecture.
- Support for protocols such as NetBIOS, TCP/IP and SPX/IPX.
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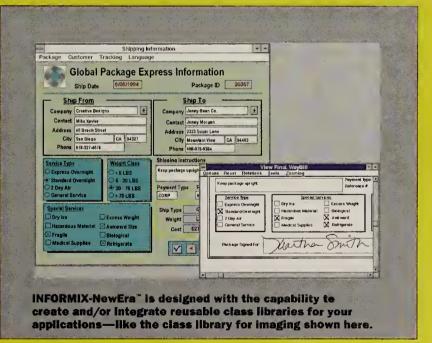
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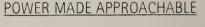
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#### Syntra eases exporter paper chase

#### Ex-tra automates order processing, tracking for international business

By Gary H. Anthes

Not everyone supported the recent passage of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, but most experts agree GATT will lower tariffs and increase U.S. exports by tens of billions of dollars annu-

While that is good news for exporting companies as a whole, it could be a headache for the accounting people in those

companies. Reason: As exports increase, so do the volume and complexity of the paperwork demanded by Uncle

Syntra Ltd. in New York said its software for managing exports helps tame the paper tiger.

"When tariffs are reduced, governments look for other ways to control exports," said Pano An-

thos, co-founder and marketing director at Syntra. "Frankly, documentation is used as a nontariff barrier."

#### NAFTA increases paper shuffle

For example, he said, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) lowered tariffs on exports to Mexico but greatly increased the paperwork burden on exporters by requiring detailed "country of origin" certificates.

DeKalb Genetics Corp. in De Kalb, Ill.,

the release that handles NAFTA requirements, said Donna Schmid, senior manager of export services. "NAFTA has complicated things because now we have to file export certificates," she said. "It's also been a challenge because we have to use different [codes]. It's another set of numbers and more paperwork."

Ex-tra automates export order processing and tracking, invoicing, shipping documentation, accounts receivable, financial reporting and other functions to

transactions. For example, it automatically translates dollars into the appropriate foreign currency and handles things not often used in domestic commerce, such as letters of credit.

DcKalb has used Ex-tra since 1989. "Before, we had no database so every-

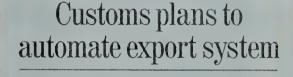
thing had to be typed in," Schmid said. "And it was a big job for me to do sales reports because I had to track each invoice manually."

#### Worldwide system

For ABB Power T&D Co. in Stamford, Conn., Ex-tra builds bridges to other in-house systems used by the company's 27 divisions. For example, it takes orders for electrical equipment from customers around the world and sends them by electronic data interchange to the appropriate divisions for manufacture. Once the order is ready to ship, Ex-tra produces invoices, packing lists and other paperwork and feeds data back to ABB's accounts receivable system.

Three years ago, before ABB had Ex-tra, export management was more manual and less flexible, according to Marianne Rees, manager of customer service. "Now we just enter the order once, and we can get any kind of report we want," she said. "We used to manually type invoices, and the old system did not do order acknowledgements or proforma invoices."

Syntra recently struck an agreement with OCR Services, Inc. in Rockville, Md., whereby Syntra offerings will include access to OCR Services' export compliance data. The data is a compilation of federal regulations governing the export of drugs, chemicals, munitions and the like.



Import document processing at the U.S. Customs Service has been automated for a number of years, but the processing of export documents has remained mostly a cumbersome, error-prone manual system.

But in July 1995, that should start to change. That is when the Customs Service, working with a number of other federal agencies, is due to bring up a pilot version of the Automated Export System. The system will accept automated input from exporters, generate export statistics, ensure compliance with export regulations and generally speed export processing.

A keypart of Customs' development effort is to devise one electronic input form to replace a host of semiredundant paper forms that exporters have to complete for multiple government agencies.

"Also, we will be able to target the highrisk [exports] and keep our noses out of the stuff where there is no risk," said Rebecca Trafton, an Automated Export System team member at customs.

-Gary H. Anthes



Source: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

uses Syntra's Ex-tra export management software and will soon upgrade to

support export operations. It costs between \$15,000 and \$350,000, depending on the number of users and modules chosen, and runs in a variety of environments — most often on a Unix server on a Novell, Inc. NetWare LAN, Anthos

DeKalb exports 5,000 metric tons of seeds to some 50 countries each year, and the company uses Ex-tra to generate export documents, sales and accounts receivable reports and customer invoices, Schmid said. She said the software was crafted to handle international

#### Sun

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47** 

Brian Holgate, systems manager for engineering at Cyrix. Prices for Tatung's SPARC 10-equivalent machine are 20% lower. Cyrix also has

Sun-compatible from Sol-Computer, Inc., which recently stopped making SPARC hardware.

Clone makers' willingness to move away from SPARC — at least for some product lines — does not surprise longtime Sun watchers. Analysts said Sun held too

much of a technology lead for too long before it shared lead time with SPARC resellers.

"Historically, the little guys are the first to feel the tilting of the playing field," said Andrew Allison, a RISC chip analyst in

Carmel, Calif.

It will be

increasingly

difficult to

prevent some

**SPARC** 

vendors from

straying from

the Sun fold.

Sun said it tried to level that playing field by creating the Sun SPARC Technology Business last year to shepherd SPARC chips to the market. The move also gave clone makers a head start in shipping Solaris 2.4 this past fall.

But it will be increasingly diffi-

cult to prevent some SPARC vendors from straying from the Sun fold.

"Most of the Sun clone vendors are looking at other opportunities as well," said Laura Segervall, manager of workstation research at International Data Corp.'s Mountain View, Calif., offices. "lt's a hedg-

ing-your-bet kind of thing."

That is because clone makers generally ship a small number of SPARC-compatible units and look to the emerging low-end RISC PC market as a way to grow sales dramatically.

#### Briefs

#### Toshiba touts "wireless DAN"

Promoting the concept of the "paperless conference," Toshiba Corp. has unveiled a wireless technology that will let users send and receive text, graphics and picture data among multiple PCs. Called "wireless DAN" (desk-area network), the Windows-based software can transmit data through either a PCMCIA-type wireless LAN card at 1M bit/sec. or an infrared transceiver at 2M bit/sec. The system can send and receive over a distance of 100 meters with the LAN card. It is targeted toward users who want to hold meetings at which they can create, distribute and edit documents on the PC, a Toshiba spokesman said. The company is developing software that will cnable the system to work with printers, he said. Currently a prototype, the system will be marketed within two years, the spokesman said. Pricing has not been set.

**D&B Software expands services** Dun & Bradstreet Software has added another maintenance program to its set of services. Customer Select creates three different levels of product service, with costs increasing as coverage expands. Earlier this year, D&B Software offered a maintenance price lock-in program and a value unit pricing model.

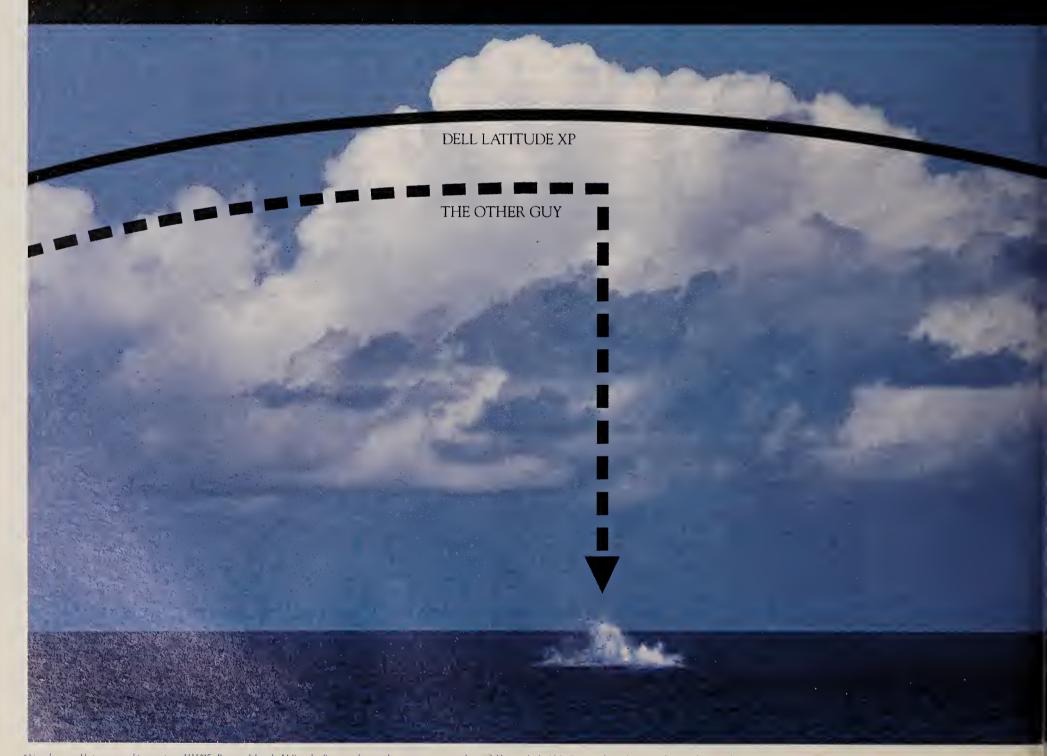
#### **Answer integrates software**

Answer Systems, Inc. in San Jose, Calif., said it would integrate its Unix-based Apriori client/server help desk software with NetWare Telephony Services, a joint product offering from Novell, Inc. and AT&T Corp. NetWare Telephony Services links office communication and computer networks, providing a single platform for integrated voice mail, fax service and electronic

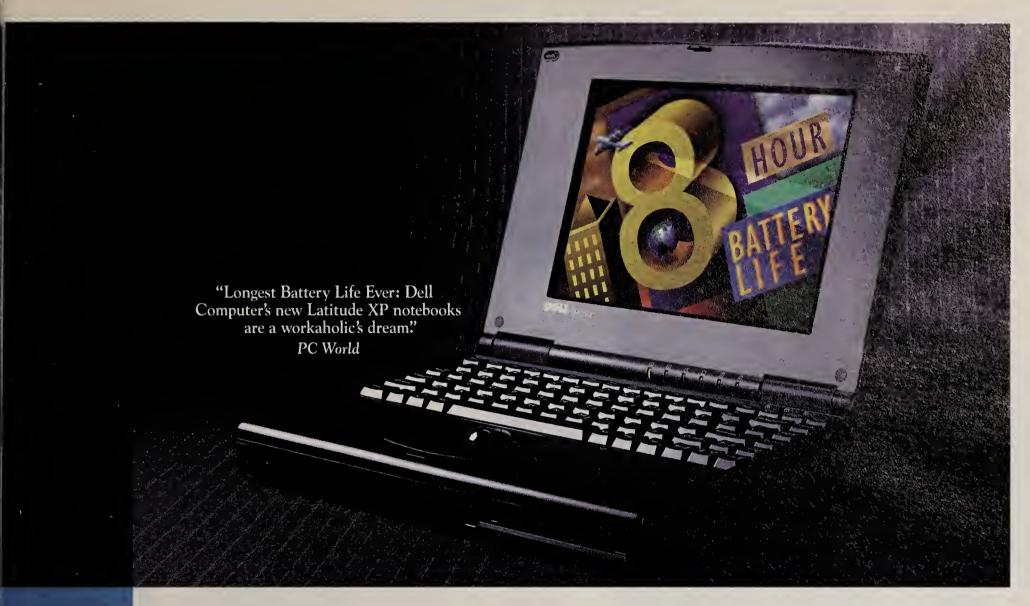
#### AT&T's Mail finds support

Three sales force automation software vendors have announced they will support AT&T Corp.'s Mail E-mail service. They are Tracker Software, Inc. in Minneapolis, National Management Systems in Vienna, Va., and SalesBook Systems in Pittsford, N.Y.

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NetFrame app designed for client/server world

By Jaikumar Vijayan

Reliable tape backup and restoration an oft-cited concern for users moving critical applications to client/server computing platforms — may have just gotten faster for users running Novell, Inc.'s NetWare on Extended Industry Standard Architecture-based servers.

Superserver vendor NetFrame Systems, Inc. in Milpitas, Calif., recently introduced Release 3.0 of its DataJet tape backup and restoration system software, incorporating support in NetWare 3.12 and 4.02, DOS, Macintosh, OS/2 and Unix environments.

Designed primarily for systems housing 10G bytes of data and more, the release provides backup performance rates of up to 15G bytes per hour and comes with integrated redundant arrays of inexpensive disks Level 5 support.

#### New solutions needed

"Server capacities and data availability requirements are just exploding. Traditional file-by-file backup methods clearly are becoming unacceptable to a lot of users," said Steve Getz, director of Net-Frame's DataJet product line.

According to Getz, the new DataJet software will permit full-volume image backup that provides customers with a high degree of fault tolerance.

"It does provide users [with] a much higher performance tape backup and restore capability with a high degree of fault tolerance. It's important from the perspective of solving a user's particular

problem," said Fara Yale, an analyst at market research firm Dataquest, Inc. in San Jose, Calif.

At the same time, analysts said the kind of high-end backup features offered by Release 3.0 were likely to be required only by a small but growing niche of very high-end users who have large concentrations of critical data on PC servers.

#### Help make the switch

NetFrame said it hopes to position the new product as a tool for network administrators planning to shift from NetWare 3.12 to NetWare 4.0. According to Getz, DataJet will allow administrators to achieve the equivalent of Novell's recommendation to complete two full data backups prior to converting a server to NetWare 4.0.

New features in DataJet Release 3.0 include the following:

- A burst protocol to increase across-thewire backup speeds.
- Backup space calculation that estimates the backup space required for the data selected.
- A tape drive configuration display that lists all the configured tape drives.

Existing DataJet users ean purchase the software for \$295 for a three-tape configuration, \$695 for a four-tape configuration and \$995 for an eight-tape configuration.

Actual pricing for the complete Data-Jet backup and restore product, including hardware, starts at \$14,995 for a three-tape backup configuration and ranges up to \$42,995 for an eight-tape configuration.

#### Backup, restore gets boost | Users' choice: All-inclusive or add-on project management

By Tim Ouellette

There are two ways to face Microsoft Corp.'s software dominance, and project management software developers Primavera Systems, Inc. and Micro-Frame Technologies, Inc. have each chosen a different path.

"One way is to compete, and one way is to stay one step ahead of the technology curve," said Karen Zevin, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. Bala Cynwyd, Pa.-based Primavera, a leader in high-end project management software, has challenged Microsoft Project's supremacy in the low-end project management software market with SureTrak for Windows.

On the other hand, Micro-Frame in Ontario, Calif., has built on top of Project with ProjectServer 4.0, a client/server software extension to Project.

#### Right tool for the job

At the Greenville, S.C., office of Fluor Daniel, Inc., an engineering/eonstruction firm, more than 100 copies

of SureTrak have been installed on individual engi-

neers' PCs, said principal project control specialist Alan Waite. "We have a lot of small projects, and we have a lot of engineers who have to schedule projects and don't want to be burdened with excess capabilities," Waite said. SureTrak has worked out well with the company's overall planning done on Primavera's Project Planner and individual projects managed by SureTrak, he added.

Zevin said Primavera's SureTrak provides a more structured, rules-based approach to project planning than Project and is an option for someone who expects to need more regimented project management down the road.

She said Micro-Frame's ProjectServer is the way to go for organizations that use Project and are moving to a client/server architecture.

For users who require full tracking throughout the life cycle of a project, SureTrak provides a Progress Spotlight feature that highlights all tasks that should be completed in a time frame the user specifies.

Joel Koppelman, president of Primavera, said with features such as Progress Spotlight, SureTrak targets part-time project planners who want more than a bar charting tool for initial planning but do not require a high-end project management software package.

#### Build it on top

Primavera says

its SureTrak for

Windows

targets

part-time project

planners who

want more than

a bar-charting

tool for initial

project

planning.

Micro-Frame decided to add functionality directly to Project, especially with the large number of corporations that have

standardized on the software. According to Micro-Frame President John O'Neill, ProjectServer extends Project's management capabilities to a large number of projects by providing central consolidation of Project files.

Entergy Services, Inc., a utility in New Orleans, La., needed to standardize planningfor more than 120 information systems projects.

After a pilot test, the firm chose a combination of Project and ProjectServer. According to Sharon Ledet, information technologies senior consultant of IS planning, the company now enters project details into Microsoft Project, while Micro-Frame's ProjectServer consolidates the files — previously scattered among various servers and PCs — into a central database. "Now we can look in one place and find all the projects," she

ProjectServer also tracks action items, checks for open tasks, provides multiproject reporting and is capable of managing thousands of projects.

Ledet said she has not noticed any reduction in the product's response time when additional projects have been added to ProjectServer.

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"uni-REXX and uni-XEDIT provided our users with a maximum of functionality while creating a minimum of confusion during the transition."

--Allison Engine

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Biseom, Inc. has announced Faxcom for NetWare, a Novell, Inc. NetWare Loadable Module-based fax server.

According to the Uneimstord, Mass., company, Faxcom for NetWare provides fax services to users of NetWare 3.x and 4.x, Windows, DOS, Macintosh and Unix X Window System. It automates inbound routing of received faxes, converts faxes to text, manages private and public fax phone books and interfaces to scanners for faxing hard copy.

Prices start at \$1,495.

 $\triangleright$  Biscom(508) 250-1800 Mega Drive Systems, Inc. has announced the MR/20, a redundant arrays of inexpensive disks (RAID) system for Macintosh Quadras and Power Macin-

According to the Beverly Hills, Calif., company, the MR/20 provides 84G bytes of on-line KAID storage.

The product was designed for use with video servers and high-end graphics servers connected to Macintosh plat-

Features include 20 fully loaded, hotswappable, 4.2G-byte drives, support for RAID Levels 0, 3 and 5 and a SCSI-2 inter-

The MR/20 costs \$20,200

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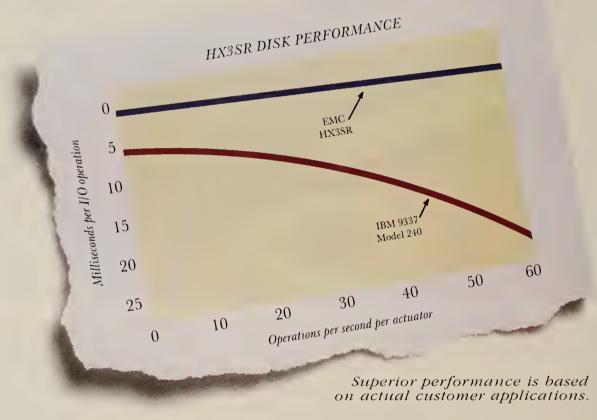
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#### Analysts see slow NetWare move

Novell cites 'stale and bad information' about Version 4.1

By William Brandel and Laura DiDio

As Novell, Inc. tries to put its spin on the NetWare 4.1 launch, market analysts are formulating their own notnecessarily-auspicious scenario regarding the forthcoming rollout.

Opinions in the analyst community on NetWare 4.1's prospects for success range from downbeat to enthusi-

One of the more eyebrow-raising reports is from Computer Intelligence InfoCorp in La Jolla, Calif. Its report, released last month, was called "Novell's Strategy for NetWare 4.x Appears DOA."

LAN service director Stan Schatt, the report's author, said that while NetWare 4.x is very attractive for customers installing new LANs, Novell's strategy "is less than adequate to move the [NetWare 3.x] people to Net-

Lee Doyle, an analyst at International Data Corp. (IDC) in Framingham, Mass., in his recent report "Novell: Directions for NetWare 4.x and Beyond," said acceptance for NetWare 4.0, released in early 1993, has been "decidedly lukewarm."

According to IDC statistics, 51,000 licenses of Net-Ware 4.x were installed in 1993. That figure bested offerings from competitors such as Microsoft Corp. but represents only 15% of the installed base of NetWare 3.x users, Doyle said. However, IDC forecasts the number of NetWare 4.x licenses will rise to between 70,000 and 75,000 this year.

"The follow-on version 4.1 is aimed at penetrating the mainstream Novell customer. We anticipate that NetWare 4.x will ramp up more rapidly during 1995 after Novell releases 4.1," Doyle said in the report.

#### Staying the course

Network administrators at small and medium-size organizations agreed with Schatt that there is no compelling reason for them to migrate to NetWare 4.x right away. These same users also said that

while their companies would likely upgrade from Net-Ware 3.x, they are also leaving the door open for Microsoft's Windows NT Server.

"We've been running 3.1 for two years, and it works fine and suits our needs. We'll probably upgrade to Net-Ware 4.1 when there's time, sometime in 1995," said Rob Beyer, supervisor of network services at Southam

#### **A** handful

**A Computer** Intelligence InfoCorp survey showed that for the first quarter of 1994, 14,995 LANs at companies polled were running NetWare 3.x. A total of 766 companies said they were evaluating NetWare 4.x, while network managers were evaluating it for future adoption on another 948 LANs.

Newspapers in Toronto.

But Beyer said Southam Newspapers is also considering NT Server.

"We're taking a very preliminary look at NT Server, and there's always a possibility that it could supplant NetWarc at our organization," Beyer said.

Mark Herder, manager of data communications at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., noted that while he prefers NetWare to NT Server, the choice is not solely his.

"I don't drive the [network operating system] or applications bus. I'm just a passenger," Herder said. "If an executive in a particular department absolutely demanded NT Server, we would have to install and support it."

Schatt's report estimated that only 3,800 LAN sites are evaluating NetWare 4.1 this

year. Schatt said that number came from polls conducted earlier this year in which sites were queried about their evaluation intentions for the next 12 months. At that time, NetWare 4.1 was in its alpha release. Schatt said the number might have increased slightly since then, but not by much.

NetWare, page 60

#### SMS impresses despite resource needs

By Steve Moore

As Microsoft Corp. moves aggressively onto the corporate systems management playing field with a new type of football called Systems Management Server (SMS), users on many corporate teams are huddling to determine whether they want to play Microsoft's

"SMS looks very promising and feature-rich, but we're not in a hurry to jump to any systems management platform,' said Tony Defeciani, manager of microsystems and communications for the New York State Assembly in Albany. Although he is currently evaluating SMS. "We will take a step back, give it time to mature and see where the industry is going," he said.

Another user was more bullish. "It's an incredible program — somewhat problematic at this point, not quite cooked yet, but awesome," said Adam Lynn, a senior LAN engineer at Micro Research Industries in Alexandria, Va. With SMS fully configured and acting as an integral part of Microsoft's BackOffice applications suite, Lynn said, "every Microsoft, LAN Manager, OS/2 and Novell workstation in this building, connected by routers, frame relay or whatever, belongs to me."

SMS' software management capabilities are particularly valuable, Lynn said, WHAT USERS SAY ABOUT MICROSOFT'S SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SERVER

#### PROS

- + Gives complete overview of client/server network and provides detailed information on each node
- + Integrates with Microsoft's BackOffice suite
- + Supports centralized management of software applications

- Requires large amounts of RAM and disk capacity
- Runs only on NT Server
- Causes confusion as to how DMI and Microsoft's proprietary alternative will coexist

because they enable him to control software inventory the way corporate managers desire.

"We're all afraid of the Software Publishers Association, and I can tell you exactly what software we have and that we are completely legal," he said. Applications on a list of forbidden software "can automatically disappear off everybody's machines," he added.

#### Worthwhile trade-off?

One downside of SMS, Lynn observed, is that "on the desktop, it's a hog that needs 32M bytes of RAM and 500M bytes of disk. [If you have] less than that ... you can't even load it and use it."

But Defeciani was unconcerned. "On a computer used for management purposes, I don't think the hardware requirements for something that can give you this much capability are much of an issue," he said.

For users undaunted by SMS's appetite for server resources, "the success of SMS will depend on the willingness of customers to deploy Windows NT servers," said Dave Passmore, a principal consultant at Decisis,

Inc. in Herndon, Va. "NT is certainly picking up momentum, but it still has a long way to go to come close to the acceptance of NetWare."

SMS is attractive for Microsoft shops. But when it comes to server deployment, Passmore said, "many organizations will be more interested in desktop utilities that run either as Unix applications" or Novell, Inc. NetWare Loadable Modules.

Still, SMS is "moving in the right direction in its ability to dig deeper at the application level as well as the network and systems levels," said Charles Robbins, director of data communications research at Aberdeen Group in Boston.

One user hinted at a future SMS capability that will help companies monitor the computer use of telemarketing

While the voice conversation is monitored simultaneously, with SMS "you can see if employees are pushing the right buttons when they are supposed to," said Tim Muilenburg, director of information technology at MCl Communications Corp.'s consumer division in Austin, Texas. "SMS allows you to remotely log in to somebody else's PC, watch their keystrokes and then take control and make changes if necessary," he said. However, the remote-control capability is "not in production yet," he said.

Lynn said that while remote-control features can be valuable, "I prefer to go to users and help them personally as opposed to taking over their machines remotely, which is impersonal and can be threatening."

#### **Proprietary option**

Another issue, Passmore said, is that although SMS supports the Desktop Management Interface (DMI) for remotely managing LAN-attached PCs, it can also use a similar but proprietary Microsoft method for tracking desktop resources.

"There is a lot of confusion about whether DMI will be needed for Windows 95 users," he noted.

"Machines running [Windows 95] don't appear on my screen, and those users escape my scrutiny," Lynu said. "I'm not sure what Microsoft will do about

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#### Speedy LAN upgrades due this week | Partnership targets

By Stephen P. Klett Jr.

UB Networks, Inc. and Networth, Inc. this week will roll out boxes aimed at providing low-cost relicf for bandwidth-strapped networks.

San Jose, Calif.-based UB Networks will take the wraps off a 12-port Ethernet LAN switch with a 1.2G bit/sec, backplane and optional Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and 100M bit/sec. Ethernet uplinks for back-

bone or server connectivity. Meanwhile, Irving, Texas-based Networth will unveil an cight-port, 100M bit/sec. Ethernet hub that will cost \$1,795, or \$244 per unmanaged port. The Micro 100 is aimed at segmenting groups of "power users" or providing high-speed connectivity to server farms, company officials said. Grand Junction Networks, Inc. is the only other vendor shipping a 100M bit/sec. Ethernet concentrator.

Quick connects						
Users are getting more high-speed LAN upgrade options						
Vendor	UB Networks	Networth				
Product	GeoRim/E	Micro 100				
Category	Switching hub	Repeater				
Medium	10Base-T	100Base-TX				
Port density	12	8 (unmanaged)				
Price	\$5,995	\$1,795				

#### ATM-ready

At \$500 per port, the store-and-forward GeoRim switch was designed to extend the performance of existing hubs without requiring "forklift" upgrades. For example, when UB Networks ships an ATM interface for GeoRim in the second quarter of next year, users can position the box as a feeder device into their existing high-end hubs to aggregate Ethernet traffic onto an ATM backbone, according to Tyrone Pike, senior vice president and general manager of the network products division. "GeoRim can make any vendor's hub ATM-ready," he said.

Pike said UB Networks will deliver FDDI for GeoRim early in the first quarter of next year, followed by a 100Base-T interface and then an ATM interface in the second quarter. The firm will also add support for Cisco Systems, Inc. routing protocols in the third quarter. GeoRim's pricing impressed analysts.

A "\$500 list is a very aggressive price that is below market average — typically, segment-type switches run \$500 to \$600 on the street," said Tam Dell'Oro, an analyst at Dataquest, Inc. in San Jose.

While the price is nice, for beta site Air Products, lnc. in Trexlertown, Pa., GeoRim's main boon is more bandwidth, according to Virgil Palmer, manager of engineering research, telecommunications services.

"You're always in a pinch for bandwidth, and you can never satisfy your users, but this should help," Palmer said. Air Products is upgrading its campus backbone to FDDI and is testing GeoRim as an uplink "to give multiple IP networks high-speed performance," he said. "We also believe [GeoRim] will be a

stepping-stone to ATM."

If Air Products continues to see the same levels of performance, Palmer said the company may deploy as many as 40 GeoRim switches in the next year or so. "We've had a need [for] very high-speed routing and subnet capabilities and, until now, there weren't any products available to do this."

Meanwhile, in addition to the Micro 100, Networth plans to deliver the following 100M bit/sec. Ethernet

products next year:

- Micro 100 versions for its FastStack stackable hub line. Second quarter.
- 10/100 PowerPipes II switch with six 10Base-T ports and one 100Base-TX port. Third quarter.
- SwiftNIC 10/100 XT/AT bus, Extended Industry Standard Architecture and Peripheral Component Interconnect adapters. Third quarter.

Beta site Dr Pepper Bottling Co. of Texas plans to use the Micro 100 hub to provide 100M bit/sec. connections to its desktops to handle the bandwidth needs of a shift from mainframe to client/server computing.

"We're going to give the users as much power and data capabilities to the desktop as possible. And to pull all of this data back and forth, we will need bigger pipes," said Chris Rodriguez, MIS manager at the soft drink distributor in lrving, Texas. "We have a big demand now for 100M bit/sec. technology, which will only grow during the next year or so."

Dr Pepper plans to roll out as many as 80 of the Networth hubs next year, Rodriguez said.

#### Partnership targets mixed-vendor nets

By Steve Moore

Aching from a bellyful of disparate network and systems management technologies, users hanker for integrated products that are easier to stomach. Network General Corp. and Aim Technology, Inc. last week said they will respond to the need with plans to jointly create a new recipe for integrated, end-to-end, client/server management.

Users are asking for specific capabilities that Network General and Aim say will emerge from their partnership.

"I want some type of expert system that will give me more information on client/server problems and suggest potential solutions," said Norman Teinowitz, network administrator at Timberline Software Corp., a construction industry software provider in Beaverton, Ore.

"The biggest thing we'd like to see is a way to constantly monitor our network and collect long-term statistics rather than snapshots," said Robert Karls, a wide-area network engineer at Burlington Northern Railroad in St. Paul, Minn.

#### No details

The two vendors said they think they have the answer. "Network General looks at traffic on the wire and tells you what's wrong, and [Aim's] SharpShooter looks inside the server and desktop client and tells you what's going on there," said Network General Chief Executive Officer Les Denend.

SharpShooter already recommends solutions to client/server network problems and supports continuous performance monitoring, but it is still unclear how those capabilities will be extended as a result of Aim's partnership with Network General.

"Aim has attractive technology for capturing information on the systems side, and it will be very valuable to users if it is tightly coupled with Network General's products," said Charles Robbins, director of data communications research at Aberdeen Group in Boston.

Network General and Aim declined to provide details on how their products will be integrated.

John Morency, a principal consultant at Strategie Networks Consulting, Inc. in Rockland, Mass., cautioned that even after the two companies have completed the integration, user organizations will have a hard time finding staff members who understand enough about both network and systems management to derive the maximum benefit from such an effort.

#### **NetWare**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

Novell disagrees.

"Boy, do they have stale and bad information," said Jim Greene, NetWare 4.1 product line manager at Novell. He said the Cl InfoCorp report used essentially the same information Novell had 18 months ago. Greene would not give exact numbers but said fulfillment orders for NetWare 4.1 are now approaching six figures.

#### No big deal

Schatt attributes the alleged lag in NetWare 4.x migration to the fact that neither Novell nor third-party software vendors have yet produced "integrated applications" that deliver value-added features to the 4.x platform.

"The smartest thing Novell could do is take all the 4.x features, minus NetWarc Directory Services, and release an optimized 3.2 version of the [network operating system]," Schatt said.

This strategy could appeal to users such as Herder, who said he has delayed migration to NetWare 4.1 "because currently there's no real technical need."

"We don't need directory services or a single log-on since we're not a huge Novell shop. So a lot of the advantages [in NetWare 4.1] aren't a big deal for us," Herder said.

Eventually, Herder said, Dartmouth Hitchcock will deploy Net-Ware 4.1 as a departmental server, "but for the foresceable future, my smaller NetWare servers can continue running 3.11 as long as I don't have to add a lot of disk capacity."

#### Trying out migration aid

f the initially brisk demand for Preferred Systems, Inc.'s DS Standard migration tool for Novell's NetWare 4.x is any indication, mainstream users are at least testing the new platform even if they do not plan to install it in the short term.

DS Standard is a Windows-based tool that has been shipping since November. It provides network managers with a shorter and easier server configuration from NetWare 3.x to 4.x.

The Windows-based utility gives the network manager a split-screen view to find and convert NetWare 3.x binderies into objects that will reside on the NetWare Directory Services tree.

Jack Serfass, president and founder of Preferred Systems in West Haven, Conn., said the company has already closed deals with three Novell Master Licensing Accounts.

"Normally, sales to large customers take three to six months. Our two main domestie distributors, GBC/Vitek and Distribupro, Inc., had a two-week order backlog for DS Standard," Serfass said.

Novell reportedly bought 100,000 copies of DS Standard, but neither Preferred Systems nor Novell would confirm the number:

Novell will distribute five free promotional copies of DS Standard to each of its Master Licensing Accounts, Serfass said. NetWare resellers, authorized education and service centers and Certified NetWare Instructors will each get one free copy, he added.

DS Standard pricing ranges from \$295 for 25 users to \$4,495 for a 1,000-user license.

—Laura DiDio

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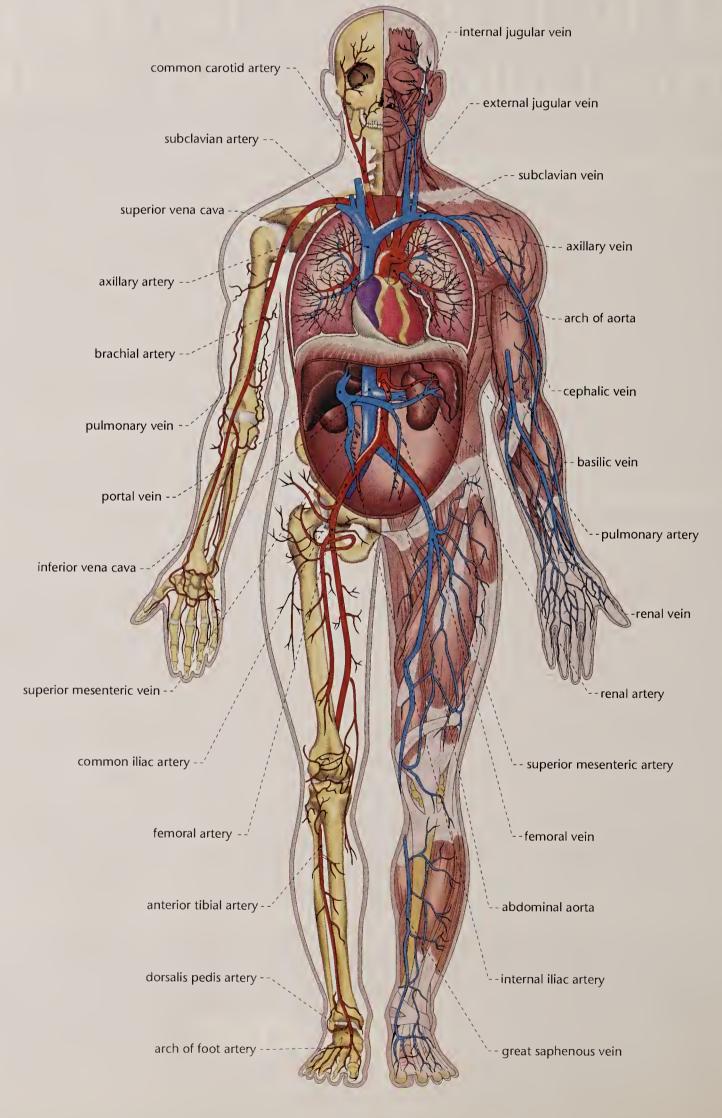
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## THE INFORMATION IN YOUR COMPANY ALSO HAS TO CIRCULATE. AND HAS SIMILAR CONSEQUENCES IF IT DOESN'T.



#### Reporter's Notebook

The underlying theme of the E-Mail World conference in Boston this month was that messaging — no longer just electronic mail — is growing by leaps and bounds. It seems companies can't come up with upgrades or announce strategic alliances fast enough. And everyone is talking about some sort of connectivity to the Internet.



Unipalm Group in Cambridge, England, announced Version 2.5 of its Mail-It Internet E-mail product. The product offers rules and filtering as core features. Unipalm unveiled Solo, an Internet package that offers server access, front-end Internet connectivity and Internet tools.

AT&T Global Information Solutions and Isoeor in Los Angeles announced AT&T Enterprise Messaging, which integrates Isocor's X.400-based Isoplex server with AT&T's directory services and third-party messaging products, such as Lotus' CC:Mail, Microsoft's Mail and Simple Mail Transfer Protocol-based mail. AT&T GIS is offering this as an electronic data interchange (EDI) service.

WorldTalk Corp. in Los Gatos, Calif., unveiled the WorldTalk 400 Directory Service Unit for Hewlett-Packard's Open-

#### Briefs

#### Switch software updated

Bay Networks, Ine. in Santa Clara, Calif., has enhanced its Data Link Switching software to support the Internet Engineering Task Force's Request for Comment 1490 standard for transporting native SNA data over frame-relay networks.

#### ATM softwared licensed

Alantec Corp. has licensed Fore Systems, Ine.'s Asynchronous Transfer Mode management software, called ForeThought, for inclusion in its PowerHub hub family.

HP develops program

Hewlett-Packard Co. has set up a new Intelligent Network developer's program, an extension of the existing PA-RISC developer's program, aimed at telecommunications companies that design valueadded services to run on HP's HP 9000 Unix servers.

Mail. This service allows OpenMail users to access directories from major LANbased messaging systems such as Microsoft's Mail, Lotus' CC:Mail and Novell's GroupWise.

CE Software in Des Moines, lowa, announced that its calendaring and scheduling product, Network Scheduler, will now support OpenMail.

Hewlett-Paekard outlined its strategic

direction, which calls for a mainframeclass information infrastructure. This will provide a common directory, message store, security and EDI services across the enterprise.

Several messaging companies pledged support for HP's OpenMail. Link-Age Software, Inc. in Boston announced the availability of LinkAge Directory Exchange for OpenMail. This product, in conjunction with the Link-Age Directory Exchange Manager, provides directory

synchronization between OpenMail and IBM host-based systems.

To help users make sense of all the happenings in the electronic messaging industry, Creative Networks in Palo Alto, Calif., launched a CD-ROM title on the industry called "The E-Mail and Group-Ware Industry CD-ROM." It provides a sampling of software that users can consider when trying to set up a messaging system. — Suruchi Mohan

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#### **New Products**

Hughes LAN Systems, Inc. has announced the Hughes 20/20 Enterprise Hub Manager for Windows 2.1, a PCbased network management system.

According to the Mountain View, Calif., company, the Hughes 20/20 Enterprise Hub Manager for Windows 2.1 incorporates WinSNMP and Windows Sockets

protocols.

Features include graphical management of the enterprise hub, an auto learn function for hub discovery and tools for configuration, performance and fault management. Hewlett-Packard Co.'s OpenView for Windows 7.2 or Workgroup Node Manager is required.

The Hughes 20/20 Enterprise Hub Manager for Windows 2.1 costs \$1,200.

► Hughes LAN Systems (415) 966-7300

Pine Mountain Group, Inc. has announced TraceTool, a protocol analyzer trace-file librarian and format conversion utility.

According to the Groveland, Calif., company, TraceTool lets users of Ethernet and Token Ring protocol analyzers convert trace files back and forth among 14 protocol analyzer file formats.

The TraceTool Librarian module provides automation and protocol information only; the TraceTool Translator module includes file-conversion capability.

Prices range from \$295 to \$795.

▶ Pine Mountain Group (209) 962-6247

Motorola, Inc. has announced the ISDN Basic Rate Interface module.

According to the Schaumburg, Ill., company, the ISDN Basic Rate Interface module supports two switched 64K bit/scc. channels, which can be combined to provide 128K bit/sec. throughput.

A 16K bit/sec. packet-switched channel for access to X.25 public data networks is included. And a bandwidth-ondemand feature brings added bandwidth through an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) connection when needed and relinquishes it when the sessions end or the primary link is available.

Prices start at \$945.

**▶** Motorola

(708) 576-5000

Hewlett-Packard Co. has announced the HP AdvanceStack 10Base-T Hub 8U, an eight-port Ethernet hub.

According to the Palo Alto, Calif., company, the HP AdvanceStack 10Base-T Hub 8U provides users with an upgrade path to Simple Network Management Protocol.

The product features eight ports with RJ-45 connectors and one recessed transceiver slot for attaching optional fiber, unshielded twisted-pair cable or a coaxial transceiver module to a network backbone.

The HP AdvanceStack 10Base-T Hub 8U costs \$299.

➤ Hewlett-Packard (415) 857-1501

Funk Software, Inc. has announced WanderLink, remote-access software.

According to the Cambridge, Mass., company, WanderLink lets remote PC users dial in over standard lines to a Novell, Inc. NetWare network.

Security features include NodeID, data encryption and domain filtering. The product provides software compression and lets users become a node on a network with access to file servers, electronic mail and printers. Users can also take over and operate any PC on the LAN.

Prices range from \$295 to \$1,695, depending on the number of ports.

► Funk Software (617) 497-6339

Olicom USA, Inc. has announced the Olicom PCI adapter, a Token Ring Peripheral Component Interface (PCI) adapter.

According to the Plano, Texas, firm, the Olicom PCI adapter can achieve data transfer rates of up to 133M byte/sec. and was designed for networks using multimedia applications.

The adapter provides plug-and-play performance for servers and workstations at either 4M or 16M bit/sec. and fcatures a Flash Remote Program Load utility that lets diskless workstations boot directly from the server.

The Olicom PCl adapter costs \$580.

▶ Olicom USA (214) 423-7560

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#### IBM Microsoft

#### NETWORK USERS. THE VOTE IS IN.

IDC Jan-June 1994 Server Network Operating Systems Node Shipments\* Novell: 72% | Banyan: 7% | Microsoft: 7% | IBM: 7% | DEC: 3% | Other: 4%

# Quick, who has a next generation network that's rock solid today?

(Hint: it's not IBM or Microsoft.)

verybody boasts about what their network operating systems could become. But talk, as they say, is cheap. So instead of jabbering about fanciful future plans, let's take a look at the current facts. Fact number one is that networking today encompasses more than just file and print. Number two, is that basic file and print are just about all IBM and Microsoft can offer right now. (And even those aren't up to NetWare standards.) Which leads us directly to the clincher: there's only one network that's complete, proven and ready to go now and that's NetWare 4.

#### "ALMOST" DOESN'T COUNT IN NETWORKING. (SORRY IBM & MICROSOFT)

What the other guys want you to buy is little more than a promise to provide a full service network operating system somewhere down the road (the high-tech version of "the check is in the mail"). Or maybe they'd like to point you to a third party vendor. But that's not enough to run the network you need today.

So why isn't it enough that IBM and Microsoft offer basic file and print services and little else? Because networking today encompasses much more than those services and local work groups. In fact, networking today has evolved to create a distributed network that speeds timely information directly to the people who need it. At the moment they need it most. Networking today means salespeople on portable computers can let the home office know what's up with sales in Dubuque. In minutes instead of weeks. It means a key player on the road can keep collaborating with folks at home to get that business plan in the banker's hand tomorrow. Feats like these require 32-bit NetWare 4, not just a promise.

#### 555 DAYS UP, 0 DAYS DOWN: ONLY NETWARE 4 IS A PROVEN PRODUCT TODAY.

NetWare 4 doesn't just talk about great services, it actually delivers them. Now. And there's nothing like months of solid performance and happy users to prove it. Folks tell us NetWare 4 is a product they can count on today as well as tomorrow. Others report that it has

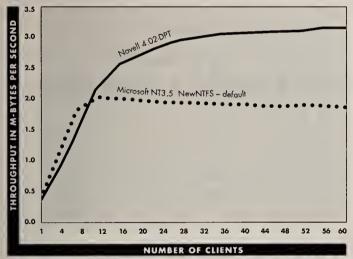
given them stability and performance and has proven itself in business critical applications. But the comment we hear most is that, quite simply, NetWare 4 is doing everything they need it to do. And that's good enough for us.

### WHAT WE'VE GOT THAT THEY DON'T. THE 7 SERVICES EXPLAINED.

The reason our users are so happy is that we offer them the 7 services they need to hook up with people and information anytime, anywhere. The other guys can only give you 2 of those services right now. The chart to the right shows you who offers what. Here's the scoop on what the 7 services can do for you.

We'll start with the directory service.

In a nutshell, it means no more looking for data in all the wrong places. NetWare 4's directory service keeps track of all network users, servers, and resources. Even on large internetworks that use wide area network links. And because it offers centralized administration and management of an entire distributed network, you simply log in to the network once to get the info you need the moment you need it.



Source: PC WEEK 11/14/94 Netbench 3.0 wos used to meosure overoge throughput.

With results like these, it's no wonder PC WEEK calls NetWare

"the speed demon of file and print services."

Built-in messaging lets you use most of the popular groupware packages such as E-mail, calendaring and others. And because it uses the same directory as the network operating system, you're blessed with a single-point-of-administration that saves you time and money.

Multiprotocol routing with NetWare gives you software-based routing (no new hassles, no new hardware) for connecting your network with the rest of the world. That way, you get the info you need anytime, anywhere, and you can collaborate

with anyone, anywhere.

Network management with NetWare 4 lets you manage your entire network from a single-point-of-administration. And our graphical MS Window's

#### NEXT GENERATION NETWORK SERVICES. READY OR NOT?

Services	Novell NetWare 4	Microsoft NT Server 3.5	IBM LAN Server 4.0
1 Directory	Yes.	No	No
2 Integrated Messaging	Yes.	No	No
3 Multiprotocol Routing	Yes.	No	No
4 Network Management	Yes.	Limited	Limited
5 Security	Yes.	Limited	Limited
6 File	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
7 Print	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.

management tools reduce repetitive, multi-step tasks to a simple click of a mouse.

Security with NetWare 4 allows administrators to control access to sensitive information within a distributed environment. In fact, it was designed to meet the National Computer Security Center's Class C2 Network Security criteria.

And last but not least, file and print. Only NetWare 4 offers data migration, suballocation and compression so you won't have to buy extra hardware like the other vendors require. Simply put, our file and print services beat IBM and Microsoft cold on both performance and cost.

#### NOVELL'S SUPPORT ENGINEERS OUT-NUMBER MICROSOFT'S 50 TO 1. WHO WOULD YOU RATHER CALL FOR HELP?

Buy NetWare 4 and when you call for help you'll get answers, not a runaround. Only Novell has over 47,000 Certified Novell Engineers (and 60,000 more in training) working with 20,000 Novell authorized resellers. Not to mention a veritable arsenal of everything from technology and solution partners to systems consultants and integrators. The point is, we don't sell you the product and disappear.

#### NETWARE 4 ISN'T JUST EASY, IT'S VIRTUALLY RISK-FREE.

It's true. In fact, no other migration path is this

easy and risk-free. On top of having the same basic architecture we've always had, NetWare 4 also features built-in migration tools so you can upgrade now. Backward compatibility to NetWare 3 means

that applications written for NetWare 3 run on NetWare 4. And because you can man-

age NetWare 3 from a NetWare 4 server you can transition at your own pace. Installation is more hassle-free thanks to NetWare 4's simple install option. Even administration is a breeze because NetWare 4 lets you make all those routine, repetitive tasks in one intuitive step.

# BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE. HOW DOES A 300% RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND A FREE UPGRADE SOUND?

Fewer hassles mean fewer dollars. Research shows that approximately 70%\*\* of the cost of a network is administering

and managing the network and its applications. By simplifying the administrative load, NetWare 4 slashes the cost of administering your network by roughly 25%†. Customers who added these savings to those garnered by eliminating additional hardware expenses have reported up to a 300% return on their investment in NetWare 4. Better yet, if you buy 4.02 now we'll upgrade your network operating system free through March, 1995. What a deal.

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We're so sure that the facts speak for themselves that we've filled an entire brochure with them. In it, you'll discover that the way we stack up against the competition is truly impressive. And that the product we've built over the past 11 years is proven. Our brochure should leave no question that there's only one network to go with now, and you can read all about it by calling 1-800-554-4446.

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Intelligent agents automatically manage events and, if they can't correct a situation, alert you BEFORE a problem gets out of hand. When you need to take action, PATROL's intuitive object-based architecture lets you drill down for details and choose the best course. Either way, you're always in control.

We'll be glad to put you in control today. Just call BMC Software and ask about our free PATROL trial program. **800 278-4262** or 713 918-8800.



- GARY SMABY, THE SMABY GROUP, IN REFERENCE TO NCUBE (SEE BELOW)

#### Commentary

Richard Finkelstein

#### When OLAP does not relate



Ten years ago, E. F. Codd opened a Pandora's box when he presented the radical view that relational databases may be more appropriate than the then-popular hierarchical and network databases. A simi-

lar debate is now developing around on-line analytical processing (OLAP). Some say relational databases can satisfactorily support OLAP, but 1 am among those who say they cannot.

Codd, the father of relational technology, crafted the term OLAP, which refers to a class of applications that allow analysts to interactively examine and manipulate large amounts of consolidated and detailed data from many perspectives. OLAP applications let analysts drill down into data, pivot perspectives, perform trend analysis and time comparisons and statistically analyze relationships among numerous pieces of interrelated data.

There is a growing consensus that multidimensional databases (MDD), which store data as cubes within cubes as opposed to two-di-

Finkelstein, page 72

# MasPar, NCube carve out divergent parallel paths

By Craig Stedman

■ Following the strong doses of frontier justice handed out to some of massively parallel processing's (MPP) pioneers this year, two of the smaller survivors are striking out along different trails toward the commercial markets that could promise continued safe passage.

MasPar Computer Corp. is pursuing a niche strategy for

large-scale decision-support applications involving more than 100G bytes of data. The Sunnyvale, Calif., company will use a relational database introduced at last week's DB/Expo '94 specifically for its MP-2 systems, and MasPar executives said they have no plans to go after transaction processing business.

On the other hand, NCube wants to use its recently introduced NCube 3 machine and its connec-

tions to database powerhouse Oracle Corp. as well as Amdahl Corp. and other big companies to make a name for itself first in mainstream decision support and eventually in transaction processing.

"We're very small and could get squished like an ant if [a larger vendor] decides to have a fight with us," conceded Chris Marino, director of product marketing at NCube in Foster City, Calif. "But hopefully the deals that we've signed will help us."

MasPar and NCube each had annual sales of about \$20 million last year. But analysts noted how being owned by

Larry Ellison, Oracle's chicf executive officer, has made it easier for NCube to avoid the financial wolves that forced Thinking Machines Corp. and Kendall Square Research Corp. out of the MPP hardware business within a month of each other last summer.

"MasPar has had to scale back its vision, but I think NCube is scaling its up," said Gary Smaby, president of The Smaby Group, Inc., a consulting firm in Minncapolis. "When one is personally funded by a billionaire, it's a benefit."

NCube can also get around its lack of name recognition by turning to both Oracle, which can point customers to the MPP vendor, and Amdahl, which is marketing a bundled NCube/Oracle database server to its mainframe accounts. MasPar is more on its own these days after an earlier marketing deal with Digital Equipment Corp. "pretty much wound down" due to Digital's financial problems, Smaby said.

# Decisions, decisions MasPar's Decision Series is scheduled to be installed at an initial beta site this week Processors: 1,024 Maximum performance: 4,250 MIPS RAID 5 storage: 20G bytes I/O transfer rate: 15M byte/sec. Communications bandwidth: 64M byte/sec. List price: \$630,000

#### Edging its way in

What's on deck

ed via TCP/IP.

environments.

The following are new Legent

**Prevail/XP-Spool:** Allows users to

print on remote printers connect-

Prevail/XP-View: Allows users to

view on-line reports on 3270 ter-

Prevail/XP-Deliver: Supports re-

port selection and analysis in MVS

Prevail/XP-Connect: Supports bi-

directional report distribution be-

tween mainframes and LANs.

products and their functions:

Even with Digital's involvement, MasPar had a tough time persuading one of its first decision-support customers to sign on the dotted line despite strong benchmark results against an existing mainframe. "There were some doubters because of MasPar not being a household name," said Bruce Tyshynski, MPP project adviser at the British Columbia Ministry of Health in Vancouver.

The ministry eventually did buy an MP-2 to handle 40G MasPar, page 73

### Legent client/server link targets staffing costs

By Steve Moore

Continuing its quest to extend mainframe systems management capabilities into the client/server world, Legent Corp. recently unveiled an integrated event scheduling package and ported its Prevail/XP-Automation Point systems management product to Hewlett-Packard Co.'s HP/UX.

Legent's move was designed to reduce staff costs by helping users integrate and centralize the management of mainframe and client/server environments.

"The amount of staff time we save will be measured by how much automation the Legent products will provide," said Peter Falzarano, an automation engineer at the Medical Center of Delaware in Newcastle, Del. While Legent's move into client/server management is "a match made in heaven for us, it's a new world for them. We don't know yet how much time and personnel it will take to manage the wide range of client/server and mainframe applications we need to get under control," he said.

With Legent's new event scheduling application, called Prevail/XP-Jobtrac Remote, running on an IBM RS/6000, "it's very productive to have the ability to schedule MVS and AIX events from one workstation," said Tom Miller, an operations development consultant at American Greetings Corp. in Cleveland. Jobtrac Remote masks drastic differences in the command languages used on IBM AIX and MVS systems, Miller said, letting him know immediately when a problem occurs in either environment.

#### **Keeping promises**

"Legent is continuing to deliver on its promise to make the Prevail products cross-platform, and users will see more Legent products coming out that support multiple platforms," said Paul Mason, resource manager for enterprise systems management at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

Prevail/XP Automation Point, which previously ran on OS/2 and now runs on HP/UX, typically is used in conjunction with Legent's mainframe-based Pre-

vail/XP Automation running on MVS or VM. While users do not have to have a mainframe to use Legent's Prevail prod-

ucts, Mason noted, Legent will be most successful in companies with centralized information technology resources.

"In companies that have a more anarchistic model, the culture tends to reject the centralized approach," Mason said.

He said another key question is whether users will prefer systems management product suites such as those from Computer Associates In-

ternational, Inc. and Boole & Babbage, Inc. or will "build their own [suites] within a framework like Legent's."

"We know central [information technology] users well, and now we are get-

ting to know departmental users," said Suzanne Nicastro, vice president of Legent's operations management business

unit. Although central information technology groups have lost power in the past five years, she noted, some companies are asking them to support enterprisewide systems management by taking on client/server systems management tasks.

Pricing for Prevail/XP-Automation point for HP/UX, which will be available in early 1995, is based on the number and size of connec-

tions and devices to be managed. Prevail/XP Jobtrae Remote includes a license fee of \$41,200 for the base Prevail/XP Jobtrae product, plus \$1,000 to \$5,000 per remote agent.

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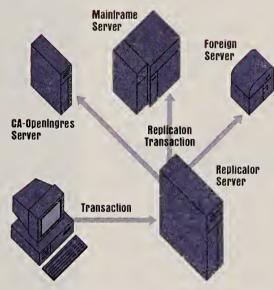
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UNIX

VMS

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WINDOWSAI

#### Finkelstein

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 69

mensional tables, are important for implementing OLAP applications. Some analysts say RDBMSs are adequate—or will be adequate at some future time —

However, I believe the base data must be organized in MDDs to achieve optimal support for OLAP applications. MDDs were designed to support OLAP, just as RDBMSs were designed to support online transaction processing (OLTP).

In many ways, MDDs are a natural database server extension of the spreadsheet model. MDDs come equipped with an extensive set of built-in functions to support common OLAP operations such as consolidation, drill-down and time analysis operations. MDDs perform right in the server — complex, cross-dimensional calculations that are as essential to OLAP applications as stored procedures and triggers are to OLTP applications.

#### Too much raw data

Without this capability, the complex operations would have to be performed in outside front-end applications, several of which currently try to transform raw relational data into a multidimensional form for each user query. The problem with this approach is that large amounts of raw data must be continually transferred from the RDBMS to the front-end application. Transferring that raw data saturates the network and overloads the front-end application, which is typically sitting on a workstation.

An alternative is to put the OLAP frontend application on another server. Functionally, it acts like an MDD, but instead of storing the base data in a multidimensional form, it uses back-end relational data to store raw data.

This approach off-loads work from the workstation but does not address the network overload problem. Performance is substantially impacted because the front-end application needs to constantly access RDBMS data and then dynamically transform it into a multidimensional format.

From talking to business analysts, 1 have learned that MDDs are easier to use than RDBMSs. This is not surprising because desktop spreadsheets are far easier for end users to understand than desktop RDBMSs. One of the primary problems with RDBMSs is that it is easy for a business analyst to generate a SQL query that returns incorrect results unbeknownst to the analyst, Incorrect results are often a manifestation of incorrectly specified database joins, subqueries and correlated queries.

Because an MDD is constructed as a single, multidimensional object, there is no notion of joins and subqueries. It is therefore a more natural form for users and less prone to such errors.

Several issues have to be addressed within the MDD community. Each MDD lias its own proprietary API, which makes it difficult to build tools that operate across different types of MDDs.

Periodically refreshing large amounts of MDD data can become an operational issue. Extract and load programs might have to be run over a weekend or once a month. It would be better to have the MDD database updated more frequently and with less manual intervention.

MDD databases typically do not store each individual data record. If a business analyst needs to look at the original records, he must go to the original relational database source. MDD vendors have announced their intention to build direct links from the MDD data to relational data. However, these facilities are not yet available.

The substantial goodwill the MDDs have built in the customer base leads me to believe that MDDs will grow quickly. Even those who believe that RDBMSs can ultimately compete against MDDs are forced to concede that this will not happen for several years. For now, there

is a need to better support OLAP applications.

MDDs are here today and provide a substantial benefit with minimal cost. They do an excellent job of complementing RDBMS technology and are worth a look.

Finkelstein is president of Performance Computing, Inc., a Chicago consultancy specializing in client/server technology. He can be reached by CompuServe at 72240,2536.



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#### MasPar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 69

bytes of data stored in flat files.

But John Harte, MasPar's president and CEO, acknowledged that the company's new Decision Series database engines will have to outperform bigger vendors such as AT&T Global Information Solutions and Tandem Computers, Inc. by a wide margin to give customers the incentive to take a risk on a relative un-

Harte said his goal is to be at least 10 times faster than the competition with the Decision Series, which bundles MP-2 hardware with the Decision DB database developed for MasPar by a software firm in Indiana. MasPar hopes to sell seven Decision Series machines next year and push its annual revenue from the \$20 million mark to about \$30 million, he added.

MasPar is looking to get some marketing help from alliances with Electronic Data Systems Corp.'s EDS/dbIntelleet unit and software vendors Prism Solutions, Inc. and Business Objects, Inc. lt also expects to sign a deal shortly with a third-party firm to handle commercial customer service, Harte said.

The first NCube 3 model will target scientific users when it ships in the second quarter of next year because its \$500,000 starting price is "pretty high-ticket," Marino said. But versions costing \$100,000 to \$300,000 should be ready for the database and video server markets about three months later.

#### **Doubling dollars**

Looking ahead

NCube hope to join the

ranks of the profitable

next year, according to

executives. MasParis

profitability right now"

following layoffs and

moves during the past

year, said John Harte,

president and CEO.

NCube had hoped to

get out of the red this

year, but it still is not

profitable," said Chris

product marketing at

Marino, director of

"consistently

NCube.

other cost-cutting

"just under

Both MasPar and

NCube will compete with symmetric multiprocessing vendors for decision-support business of 20G bytes of data up. lt also plans to get into transaction pro-

#### cessing by the end of next year, once the NCube 3 has better reliability. Marino said. He added that sales are expected to "more than double" both this year and next, which would move NCube into the \$100 million

range. However, it remains to be seen whether NCube or Mas-Par can get more than "nips and tucks around the edg-

es of the [commercial] market," said Terry Bennett, a partner at The Bennett Co., a consulting firm in Portland, Ore. "Finding a few strange places where you can sell systems is one thing, but being part of the mainstream is another."

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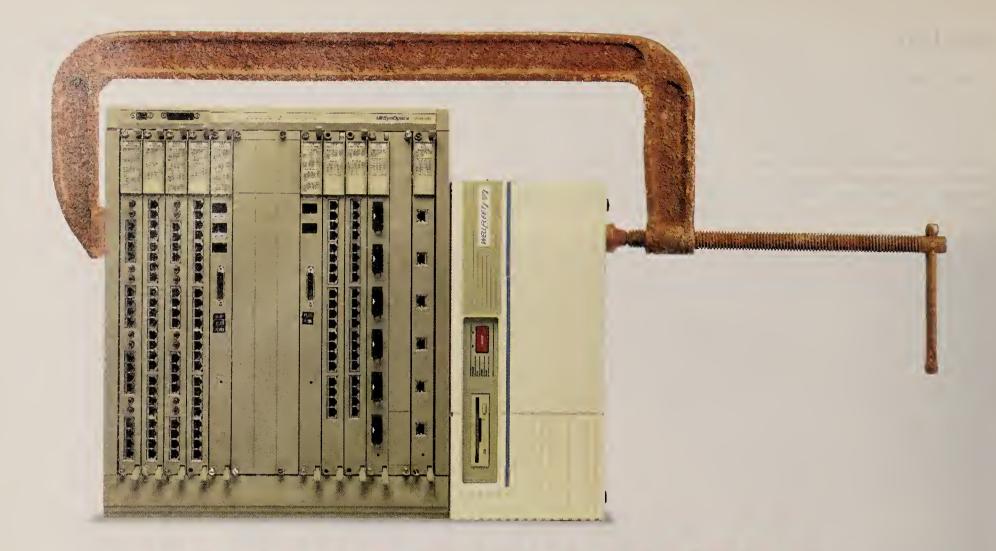
#### Briefs

Compass adds outsourcing

Compass America, Inc. in Reston, Va., last month announced an outsourcing analysis service designed to benchmark information services provided by third-party companies. Information service operations that Compass will analyze include the following: client/server computing environments, wide-arca networks, mainframe data centers and application development. The cost of the service ranges from \$30,000 to \$100,000, depending on the size and complexity of the analy-

Hyatt buys Sequent system Sequent Computer Systems, Inc. said Hyatt Hotels Corp., a longtime user of Pyramid Technology Corp. Unix systems, will use Sequent Symmetry 5000 to enhance existing systems and help Hyatt's Regency Systems Solutions provide reservation and database services to the lodging industry.





# MERGING TECHNOLOGIES

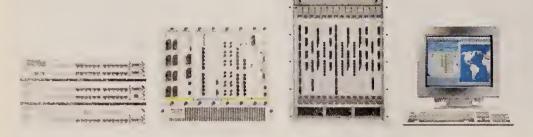
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# EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



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> - David Litwack, President **Powersoft Corporation** Powerbuilding Enterprise Applications **Datamation Magazine** 15 July 1993

"Users want a one-stop shop, a single vendor to provide most of the pieces for client/server computing."

- David Litwack, President

Powersoft (soon-to-be-a-division-of-Sybase) Corporation Sybase-Powersoft merger creates one-stop shop for client/server tools

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LANGUAGES

# **Application Development**

THREE-TIER ARCHITECTURES ARE NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART. PETER KASTNER

ABERDEEN GROUP (SEE STORY BELOW)

### Developers extend user support with PowerBuilder

By Mclinda-Carol Ballou

While some users of Powersoft Corp.'s Power-Builder development tools complain about the challenges of creating high-end applications, a small number of innovative developers are stretching the range of PowerBuilder capabilities to support as many as 700 users.

Bo Swanson is systems development manager at United Behavioral Systems (UBS), a Minneapolis-based managed behavioral health firm network of 32 outpatient clinics and case management offices that provides services for more than 2 million patients. UBS is a subsidiary of United Healthcare Corp.

Swanson's group created a three-tier client/server application using PowerBuilder in conjunction with Open Environment Corp.'s development tools and the Open Software Foundation's Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) remote procedure calls (RPC).

One application, dubbed Provnet, that UBS developed will soon support roughly 700 users, Swanson said. An administrative application at UBS supports roughly 400 users, as will a case management system UBS is developing.

Provnet manages client cases, which involves providing a patient and provider information system, Swanson said.

Provnet's query system allows UBS employees to look up providers who meet certain requirements, such as a doctor who speaks Bulgarian, works in a specific region and has experience in an appropriate specialty. Provnet also runs background checks on doctors' credentials.

#### Spanning the states

Provnet spans states from Florida to Wisconsin to Utah and replaces an arcane and cumbersome system that was primarily paper-

"We needed to be able to scale the applications to a large number of disparate users," Swanson said. The database size can grow to 10G bytes because case notes must be retained for up to seven years by law, he added.

Swanson's group, therefore, used Power-Builder as a front end, created a middle tier

PowerBuilder, page 80

#### PowerBuilder apps

hile United Bchavioral Systems had the largest deployed Powersoft PowerBuilder application of companics interviewed by Computerworld, Transco Energy Co. in Houston used PowerBuilder to re-engineer a mainframe application to a client/server setup that supports about

Transco created a complex Gas Marketing Administration System comprising 14 modules, five of which are in production, according to Inja Chun, manager of merchant IS at the company. The application lets users share the firm's administrative information across departments and platforms. The system will support functions such as billing, gas purchase payments and transportation.

Chun said the DataWindow feature of PowerBuilder was helpful. DataWindow provides SQL objects, allowing developers to access database information without writing SQL code.

"Talking to other developers, I've found that the complexity of what we are doing is actually 'bleeding edge.' Not many have developed this kind of distributed application," Chun said.

A major health management organization in Sacramento, Calif., is also developing a PowerBuilder application, which will be deployed to 2,000 users, although less than 20 are now on the system, said Ross Santos, a consultant at the

Santos will determine, along with other architects for the application, which tools to use to create the middle and top tiers of the system. He said he expects it to be deployed gradually among his organization's user base in the next nine months.

—Melinda-Carol Ballou

#### Symantec upgrade gets user OK

By Rosemary Cafasso

Early users of Symantec Corp.'s upgraded application development platform last week said it includes needed performance boosts as well as some helpful

"It is more responsive," said Eric Lau, director of information systems at Ontario Store Fixtures in Weston, Ontario, which began testing Enterprise Developer Version 2.0 just two weeks ago. "Say I want to bring up a table for manipulation or editing. It used to be a 15- or 20-second wait. Now it's three or four seconds."

Version 2.0, officially launched last week, includes some tweaking as well as new capabilities, such as eaching, that boost overall performance.

In addition, Symantec included a Data Migration facility to move data from one database to another and some basic partitioning techniques, including the ability to generate database triggers on the server. Partitioning lets users develop applications as modules and deploy them on different systems on the network.

With Enterprise Developer, Symantee competes at the lower end of the applications development market against such players as Powersoft Corp. and Gupta Corp., analysts said.

"If you are in development and moving to production, Database Migration will

bevery helpful," said Jeff Reiter, IS manager at Hill, Steadman & Simpson, a Chicago law firm, and another recent user of Version 2.0.

Reiter said "the big things aside," he was also impressed with the basic cleanup that Version 2.0 provided over Version 1.1. "It wasn't super buggy, but they have added a lot of small features based on user feedback.'

Lau said he is also looking forward to using the Database Migration.

"We were having difficulty with 1.1," Lau said of earlier attempts to move database files. "It doesn't port everything over to another server."

#### **Good reviews**

Chet Geschickter, an analyst at Hurwitz Consulting Group, Inc. in Watertown, Mass., said that with Version 2.0, Symantec is doing a good job with its repositorybased approach to development. The Symantec repository stores business rules and data models.

"The product really is a merger between the business rules-driven approach and the more accessible, clientbased systems," Geschickter said.

The repository approach is what sold Brian Vickery, a systems analyst at Fluor Daniel in Greenville, S.C. "I've seen products with great repositories but poor Windows design [capabilities]. This one seems to do both.'

#### Program takes guesswork out of discount decisions

By Mitch Betts

When airlines decide on a price for a passenger ticket, they use yield-management systems full of optimization algorithms.

When clothing retailers decide to discount the price of an item, they use some combination of rule of thumb and educated

Now, a University of Florida researcher has developed prototype software with an optimization algorithm that will add more science to the retailer's art. The decision-support system helps a retailer decide when and how much to mark down product prices to reach the retailer's profit or inventory goals.

In essence, historical sales data, sales forecasts and even the retailer's intuition are plugged into the model, which is called Mark. It then calculates the price

trajectory needed to reach the goal, such as eliminating end-of-season inventory.

For example, Mark will suggest that the item be sold at full price for a week, then be marked down 30% the following



A powerful algorithm can help retailers decide when locut prices and by how much

week, 20% the next week and so on.

"The model makes use of what the retail buyer already knows but computes many more secnarios of what could hap-Discounts, page 81

# The same and the s

The lows you to develop applications for the growing number of platforms and databases in your



### department really make for a better product?

HYPE is a powerful thing. It can make the ordinary seem extraordinary. It can make products that have real limits seem desirable. And blind you to ones that can make you more productive. Hype can keep you from learning that Sapiens Ideo works with more platforms and databases than the application development products that you keep hearing about. (Platforms from mainframes and minis to Unix and Windows.™ Databases from Oracle® and Sybase® to Informix. Just to name a few.) Hype can make you think that something developed to work with what you have now is an acceptable product. And make you forget how quickly your environment changes. Hype can make you ignore Sapiens Ideo and sell you on products with high-priced marketing budgets. Hype is like that.

#### **PowerBuilder**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 77

that contained business and transactional logic to manage traffic flow data and created a third database layer that used Sybase, Inc.'s relational database management system. PowerBuilder applications are currently two-tier, he said. His group used PowerBuilder to create a presentation layer for the application that resides on the end user's desktop.



**Systems** Minneapolis

Challenge: To distribute key applications across geographical regions as the business expands.

Technologies used: Powersoft's Power-Builder; tools from Open

Environment and the OSF's DCE RPC; and Sybase's database.

Result: One application was deployed to 700 users with dramatically increased performance and improved querying facilities. A second administrative application was deployed to 400 users. A third application, a case management system, is set to go into beta testing in the spring.

14,000 data points, she said. "It's my understanding that the three-tier structure is primarily responsible for performance improvements."

She added that the ease of use of the Windows interface and the ability to perform eomplex queries have greatly increased the efficiency of her staff.

Industry analysts said that amalgamating groups of tools to create three-tier client/server applications is not simple. But for those who need the scalability

and robustness, it is worth the effort, they said.

"It's not for the faint of heart and not for people who need applications to get into production right away," said Peter Kastner, an analyst at Aberdeen Group, a Boston eonsulting firm. "And it's not for someone with a staff of a hundred Cobol programmers who wouldn't know a PC if it bit them. With those caveats, the threetier arehiteeture is now becoming the de faeto topology of ehoiee for serious [online transaction processing]-based applications."

Developers who opt for the creation of three-tier applications with PowerBuilder must be prepared for some "serious system integration," Kastner added, because they will be dealing with tools from multiple vendors and managing multiple tiers. But PowerBuilder handles "fat" desktop elients, and it integrates well with desktop applieations, which alone is a big deal, Kastner said.



"It may be easier to get going on client/server with two-tier systems, but we needed growth

ated using Sy-

SQL

base's

Server.

and scalabili-Swanson ty,'' said. His site used Open Environment's tool set to create an RPC transactional environment that supports DCE, allowing the

transactions. Swanson's group found

three tiers to

with one another, access data

and manage

communicate

multiple benefits to using the RPC environment.

"The RPC opens the connection, performs the function and closes down the connection smoothly. You're not maintaining connections all the time and dealing with the problems that entails," Swanson said. "You put out one request to the network for processing, and a selfcontained request comes back and you're done."

According to Robin Direks, network service manager who oversees about a dozen UBS data-entry employees working on Provnet, the new system is much faster than the legacy Microrim, Inc. Rbase database previously used in eonjunction with PC DOS machines.

"It took the old database as long as 10 or 15 minutes to perform some queries. Now it's usually immediate, although it can take 10 or 15 seconds when it's slow," Direks said. Complicated processes can require searches against as many as



A smart way to spe

#### **Discounts**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 77** 

pen under different prieing regimes," said Murali Mantrala, an assistant professor of marketing at the university in Gainesville, Fla.

Furthermore, the markdown strategy ean be adjusted to reflect the latest actual sales data and retail eonditions. "If there is a major disaster, then the trajeetory is no longer valid, so you ean get a fresh estimate from that point on," he

The software, written in 5,000 lines of C++ eode, runs on an Intel Corp. 80386eompatible PC with a math eoprocessor, Mantrala said. The eore is a dynamic optimization algorithm that ean aeeount for uncertainty.

"Algorithms are enormously powerful, but they are underused in the retail industry," said Donald B. Brout, a eonsultant of retail and manufacturing systems and president of Quality Technology Deeisions, Inc. in New York. He said embedding optimization algorithms in an ordinary information system can give it extraordinary powers [CW, March 22,

"Inventory management systems are getting attention in the retail industry but not pricing [systems], even though inventory and pricing are tightly intertwined," Brout said.

By using the reams of sales data that retailers eollect to adjust pricing strategies at the local level, a price optimization system "can make a huge difference on the bottom line," Brout added.

Mantrala, who has been developing the system for five years, said the timing and the magnitude of a retail markdown are critical. "Subtle changes in timing such as reducing the price 20% this week instead of next week — ean make a big impact on your overall profitability," he said. "Or, you might mark down on the right days but do it by 10% more than you need to, and that could have a really large effeet, too."

So it is not surprising that many national and regional retailers have expressed interest in the program, which Mantrala said he hopes to commercialize in the next six months.

Mark was tested in a pilot program at Body Shop, a women's elothing retailer in Jacksonville, Fla., where six retail buyers chose a few items for the study and tracked them throughout the sea-

"All of the markdowns we do now are

Angelo said the program is ideal for

Her only criticism was that in a department with hundreds or thousands of items, updating Mark's sales data for each item would be too time-consuming. While it usually takes Mark only 15 seeonds to recommend a price strategy, data entry ean take up to 10 to 15 minutes.

Mantrala said the solution is to integrate Mark with store information systems so the data would automatically feed into the model, thus eliminating the manual data entry.

trala said.

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#### Integration needed

guesswork," said Beth Angelo, a Body Shop buyer who used Mantrala's program. "This program helps you plan your merchandise and sales strategies, and you ean revise your first estimates if sales are slower than what you expect-

items such as jeans because store buyers know the sales history of such a staple beforehand. She praised the prototype as "the wave of the future."

"The model provides useful directions, but buyers still need to use their judgment in making prieing decisions, espeeially with regard to fashion items," Man-





# I interoperability.

#### New Product

ObjectPlus Corp. has announced Win-Plus 3.0, an object-oriented application development tool.

According to the Cambridge, Mass., eompany, WinPlus 3.0 provides a visual rapid development environment for front-end applications.

The product was designed for use with any graphie-intensive development proj-

WinPlus 3.0 costs \$495.

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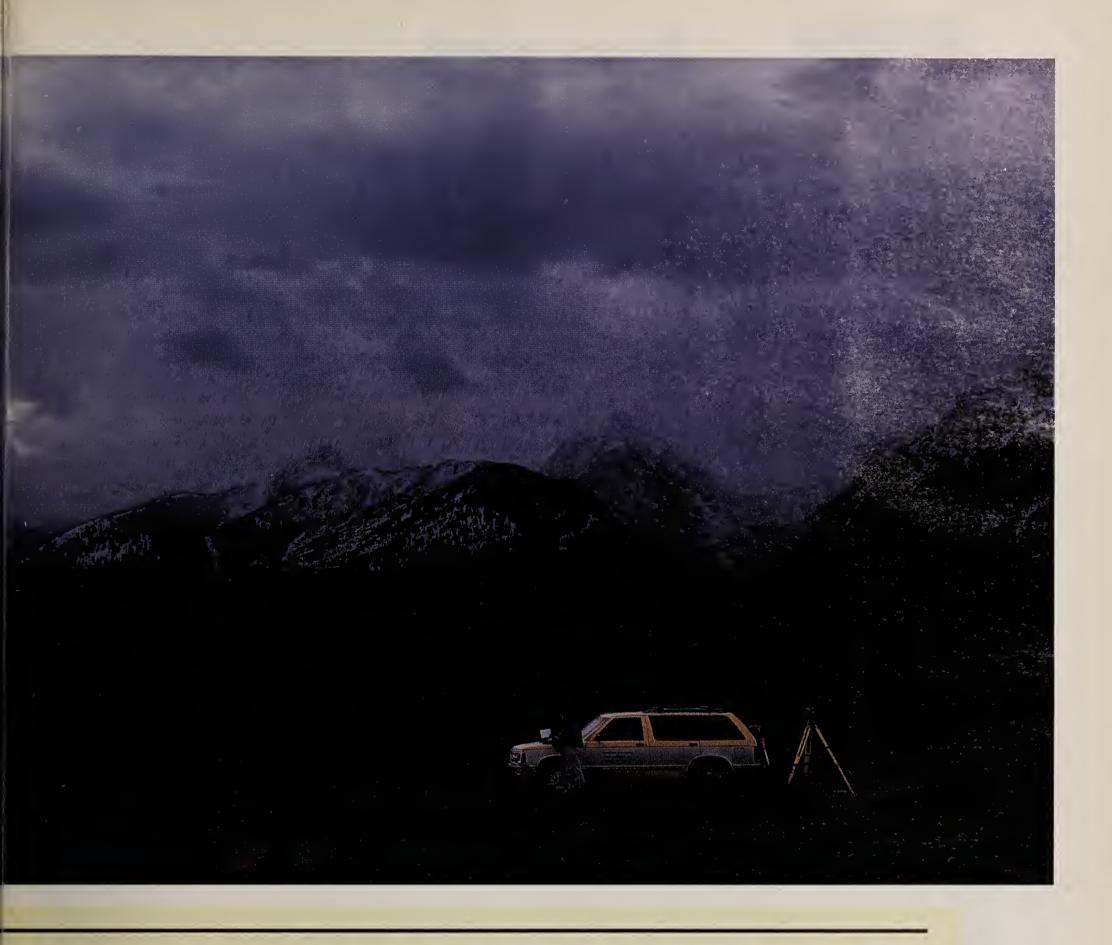
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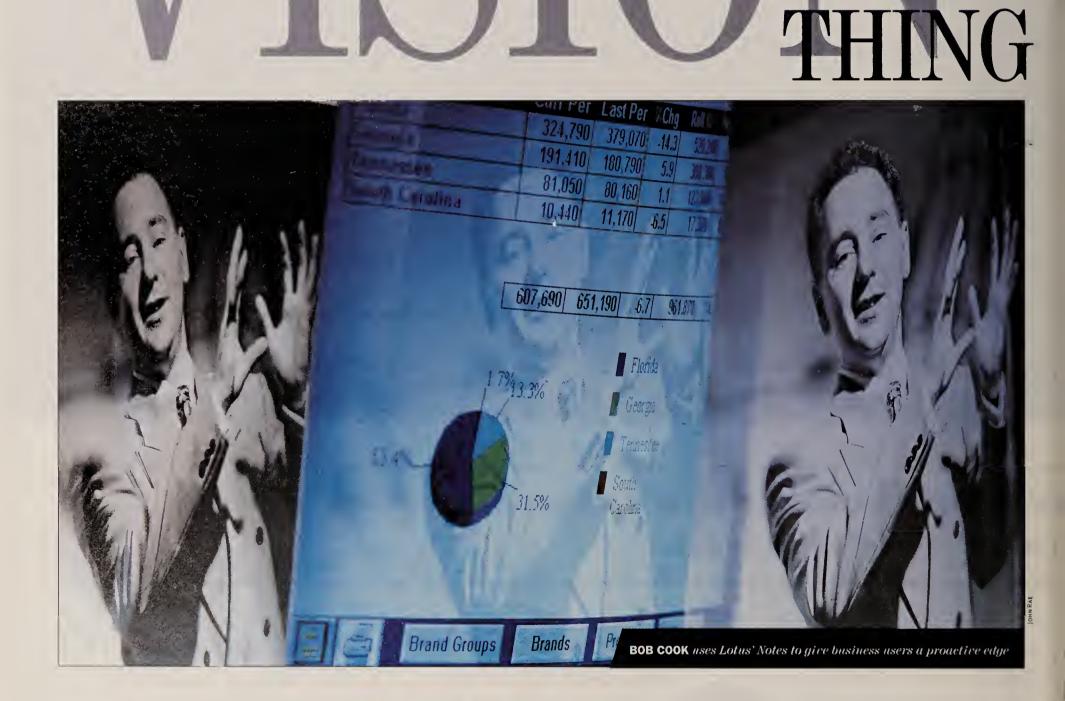
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# Management

# THE TOTAL STATE OF MELYMUKA



s project manager, Eileen Birge was putting the final touches on a huge elient/server system for a eustomer far from her home base at BSG Corp. in Houston. The project involved 30 different vendors and 111 products.

"We'd finally gotten eventors are supplied to the state of th

"We'd finally gotten everything working when one of the ven-

dors issued a new release of some product," Birge reealls. When she plugged in the new product, it blew the entire system, and "things wouldn't work together anymore."

Catastrophe? Not for Birge. She posted an SOS on the Lotus Development Corp. Notes teehnieal bulletin board that links BSG's 517 employees in 35 project locations around the country. A half-

dozen eonsultants responded that day, sharing their expertise and experience to help her solve the problem.

"The Notes system has been a lifesaver," she says. Each piece of it was developed to meet specific business needs and dovetail with an unusual corporate culture.

How do you build a system like that? The key is to bridge the eom-

munication gap that has always existed between information systems and business, helping business users envision what IS ean do and helping IS staff understand what they should do.

The two sides have always had a tough time reaching a mutual understanding. "The problem has been that the end-user community thinks they can communicate

their requirements and IS thinks that they understand," says Alan Prenouveau, director of the Lotus Consulting Services Group, a subsidiary that helps Lotus customers develop effective Notes systems.

But with the latest technologies, such as client/server, mobile computing and applications such as Notes, communication must

necded to standardize audit information and make it available to all teams at all sites at the same time.

Notes was able to deliver that standardized information and a lot more once the consultants were able to show users what was possible.

To translate requirements into reality, the Lotus group built a prototype auditing process using Notes. It allows users to see

how thev

#### COMMUNICATION IS STILL THE KEY TO ALIGNING INFORMATION SYSTEMS WITH BUSINESS GOALS. THE FIRST STEP IS OPENING THE MINDS OF USERS TO THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

could make

another level IS must help users imagine what's possible.

"Businesspeople don't conceptually understand how much [today's] technology can do, so they underask, underimagine or undervisualize," says Robert Cook, a consultant at Enterprise Information Systems, a division of Concept Information Systems in Stamford, Conn.

Companies developing Notes applications can provide insight into how organizations can communicate the potential of new technology. Notes, an increasingly popular client/server application development environment, is not so much an application as it is an umbrella for linking disparate applications and sharing information across wide geographical areas.

#### ALL AT ONCE

One company that had to wrestle with sharing information over widely scattered locations was NationsBank Corp. in Charlotte, N.C. To improve the way Nations-Bank performed its basic auditing function, the Lotus Consulting Services Group took a prototyping approach to developing a Notes system for the 350-person audit department.

"Auditing is done on a team basis," says John Curry, senior vice president and director of electronic data processing audit. "We do a lot of nationwide audits."

Traditionally, those audits were done sequentially, with teams moving from site to site; Nations-Bank management sought to improve audit quality and save time and money by auditing different sites concurrently. To do this, it changes in the process.

"Users don't really understand until they see an application they can relate to," Prenouveau says. "When people see what it can do, they go, 'Aha! Now if I can do that, can I do this?' Then we add functionality. With each iteration, you're showing them a little bit more of what could be that they've never thought of before.'

A side benefit of the Notes system for NationsBank was the ability to integrate the audit review process into the Notes system so reports move through review levels electronically. Two or three people at different locations routinely review each audit report. Moreover, they use the Notes Doclink feature to set electronic links between the reports and the often voluminous backup materials. Now, rather than pore through mountains of paper addenda, reviewers click on a citation and the backup documentation appears. This allows them to finish reviews in one day.

The main advantage of the Notes system, however, is that it allows dispersed audit teams to work concurrently. Previously, because complex audits were performed and reviewed in sections, parts could fall through the cracks and remain unfinished or unreviewed. The Notes system alerts reviewers if sections of the template are unfinished or have not been signed

"The ability to communicate for people to have this multiple access and do work concurrently vs. a very sequential operation — is a tremendous advantage," Curry says. "The time from the beginning to the end of the audit is tremendously compressed."

Getting this communication advantage requires that IS managers

understand how a new technology can help users reach the level of "Aha!" At Domecq Importers, Inc., a \$100 million importer and distributor of wines and liquors, bridging the communications gap was one of the first orders of business for the new chief information officer.

Domecq had 45 employees in its Greenwich, Conn., headquarters and 45 salespeople throughout the country when it hired Bob Cook as director of information technol-

ogy. Cook was charged with de-

> veloping an information

system to give Domecq a competitive advantage. Domecq retained a team from Concept Information Systems to help him. (Cook still works with Domecq on a consulting basis.)

Cook knows client/server technology, but he had to grow into the liquor business.

"They spent six months bringing me through the business," he says. "I went out into the field with salespeople. I spent time with marketing people. I learned how they look at sales, depletion, profitability; how they look at external, third-party information sources like market research; how they used that in marketing to substantiate pricing, discounts, brand focuses."

After his sojourn on the business side, Cook decided that gethaving to move between IS and business, he drove development from both sides himself.

In designing a database, for example, a user would ask for the usual customer name, city, statc, strect and annual sales.

"But because I understand the business, I know I don't want just annual sales — I want to sec depletion, geographical data, how it's trending," Cook says. "Maybe the Hispanie population is increasing by 15% but Hispanic brands are up only 4%. A user could never conceptualize [the system's] being able to bring that data together.'

Cook could. The system he dcveloped puts that kind of data, together with more conventional information on order and inventory status, in salespeople's laptops. "We don't decide what they can or can't do," says Patrick McGuinness, current director of information technology at Domecq. "They can drill down and get whatever data they want."

It also includes a decision-support system that matches quotas, plans, historical sales and current depletions and uses business rules to alert the salesperson if something is out of whack.

For example, a typical liquor retail customer who has sold 200, 220 and 235 cases in the past three Novembers and currently has 100 for the coming November may underestimate and order only 100 (see chart below). The system keeps

#### Envisioning the bigger picture

AT DOMECQ, BUSINESS USERS CAN MAKE BETTER MARKETING DECISIONS BY RECOGNIZING TRENDS MORE QUICKLY AND EASILY

HISTORICAL INFO: Nov. '91 SALES: 200 CASES Nov. '92 SALES: 220 CASES Nov. '93 SALES: 235 CASES

SALES TREND: ANTICIPATED NEED Nov. '94: UP 10% FROM NOV. '91 AT +7%: 251 CASES UP 7% FROM NOV. '92 AT +10%: 258 CASES

SYSTEM GENERATES DECISION-SUPPORT INFORMATION

CUSTOMER CITY STATE

**CURRENT STOCK** 100 CASES

STOCK ACTIVITY: 100 CASES ON ORDER FOR NOV. 1

ANTICIPATED **STOCK NOV. 1, 1994:** 200 CASES

RED FLAG

CUSTOMER HAS UNDERORDERED 50 TO 60 CASES

Customer information generates historical sales trends and anticipated need. Salesperson enters order. System "red flags" an order that is probably too small.

ting certain information to the field sales force would allow the reps to use their entrepreneurial skills to get an edge on the competition.

A corollary need was for better use of financial resources. Cook's immersion in the business helped him align the system properly and quickly. Rather than constantly track of this data, notes the upward trend and alerts the salcsperson that the customer has underordered. This enables him to move more product while heading off potential problems for himself and the customer.

The system gives Domecq more for its money by providing quick The Vision Thing, page 86

# THE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 85

feedback and allowing the company to update planning four times a year rather than once. That way, if a sales campaign

is floundering, it ean be revamped after one quarter, with three quarters of the budget still intact.

"It's much more proactive," Cook says. 'You can see what's going on in a market long before the competition does and can invest a lot smarter."

At the bottom line, it looks like the technology has also delivered the competitive edge. "We were up 60% in sales in the last year, and we think information technology has played a big part in that,"

McGuinness says.

If the developer and the user are the same person, as is the case with BSG, you don't have to wait for the "Aha!"

As a systems integrator specializing in client/server technology, BSG has virtually no gap between IS and business because IS is the business, so developing a well-aligned system quiekly was fairly simple. The key was using Notes applications to give widely dispersed business users quick and easy access to one

ships between objects, are auto-

matically transported into your

Manager automatically handles

database access so you're free to

concentrate on the big picture.

Once you've quickly and

cost-effectively built your appli-

ous presentation environ-

And the JAM 6 Transaction

application.

cation, run

it royalty-

free on

another and to other departments.

The main component of BSG's eulture, Birge says, is the sharing of information in a geographically dispersed environment. "It's our business to exchange ideas," she says. "But we're not a company where everyone is together a lot physically. Right now we're in 35 places throughout the country.

"There are two things critical to our success. First, we have to leverage knowledge. Notes is one of the tools that really helps us bottle expertise and make it available to many clients rather than only to the client where the resident expert happens to be."

The second success factor is "sharing our culture and keeping our people involved and a part of BSG," she says.

The basic Notes system got BSG's collective feet wet. "We told people to 'Look at this and then tell us what you need," Birge recalls. "It was an organic process. Users looked into it and eame up with ideas."

One side benefit of the Notes system was to improve employee aeeess to trainingresources. Professional development

#### Visual aids

NATIONSBANK, DOMECQ AND BSG HAVE FOUND THREE WAYS TO BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPERS AND USERS

- 1 PROTOTYPING: GRADUALLY BRINGING BOTH SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER VIA SERIES OF ITERATIONS
- IMMERSION: TEACHING THE BUSINESS TO PEOPLE VERSED IN TECHNOLOGY
- 3. DUALITY: BRIDGING THE GAP WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE EXPERIENCE IN BOTH BUSINESS AND IS

is the second highest expense item at BSG, and handling responses to requests for courses from the 500 employees was a challenge in itself.

BSG built a Notes database of the course descriptions and sehedules of 30 approved vendors. A eonsultant can eliek on a eourse offering and generate an electronic request form, which is automatically completed and routed to the project manager to approve time off. It then goes to the travel coordinator to price travel, to the administrative manager for budget approval and to the training coordinator. If a request is stalled, the system shows where; if a request is refused, the employee is so notified.

Numerous ideas have been developed, most within a week or two of conception. "It's been vital to our company," Birge says. "I can't imagine life without it."

Systems you ean't live without are systems aligned with the business strategy, and the key to that alignment is communication. The terms of the dialogue between IS and users are evolving, however. Freed by the systems' eapabilities, the technology side is no longer speaking the language of limits.

Melymuka is a free-lance writer in Duxbury, Mass.

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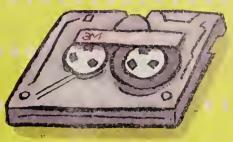
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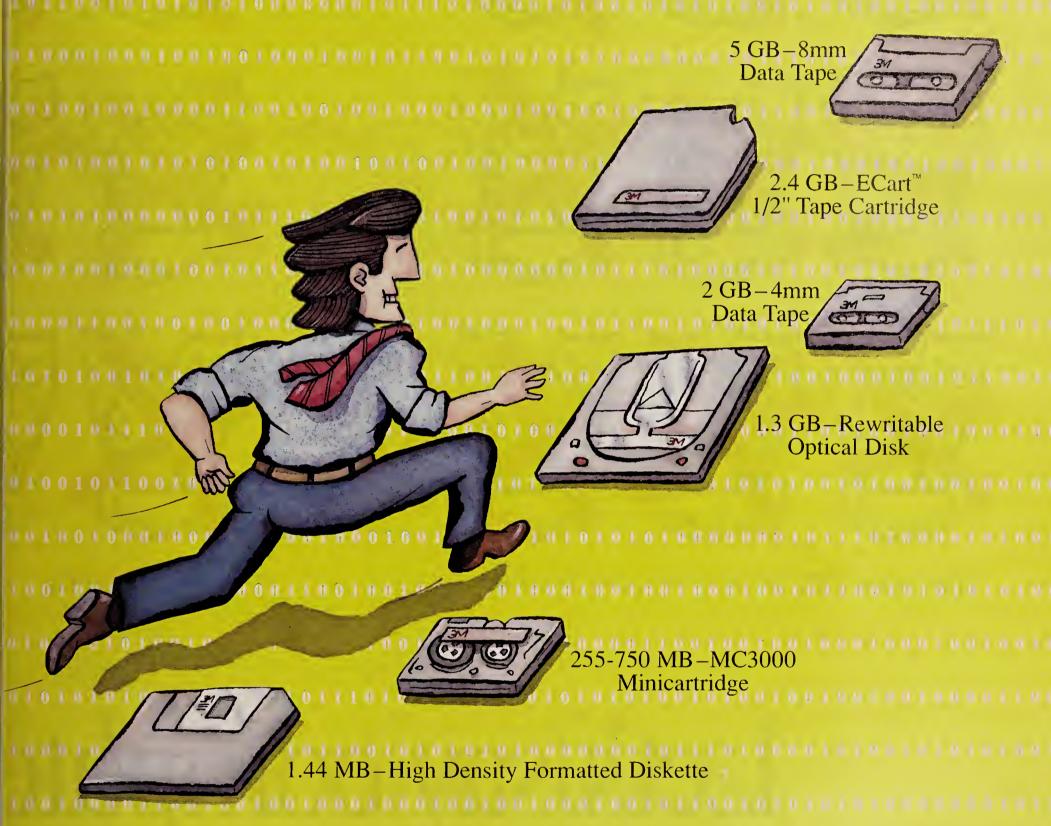
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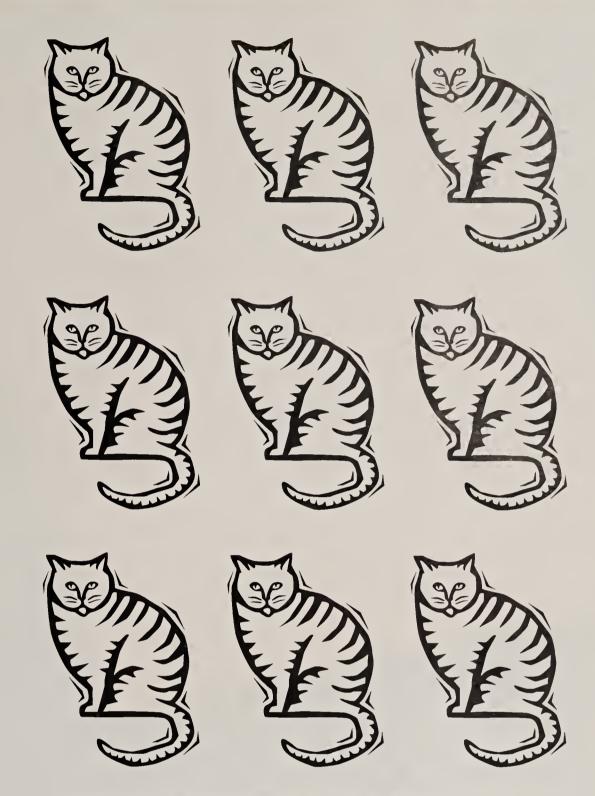
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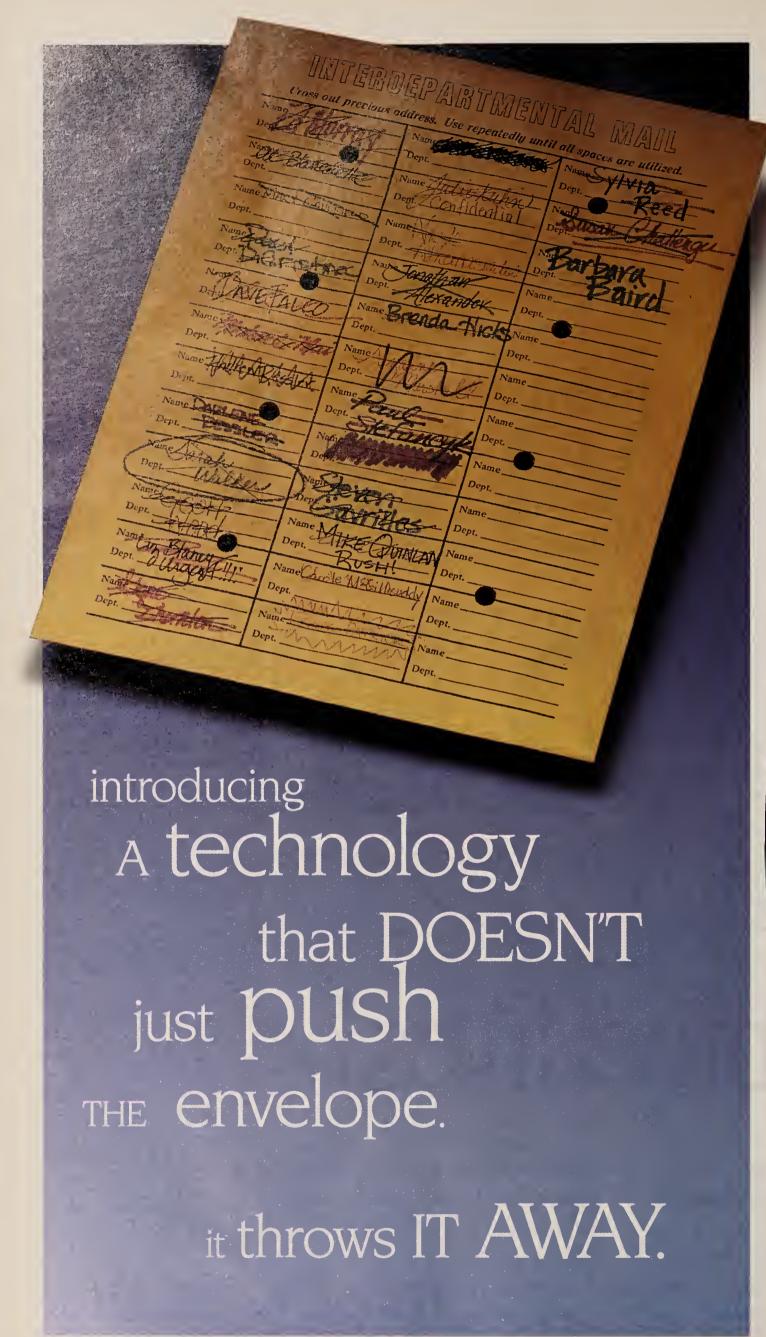
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# Bah, housebug!

#### Commentary

Roscoe J. Rant



I'm as prickly as a programmer who sat on a megabyte of memory chips with the pointy side up. I just bought a new home. And let me tell you, the companies that "helped" me

move in didn't exactly make me swoon with domestic bliss.

I mean, the computer systems these people had (if they even had them) and the way they used them would have been OK if I was moving in to, say, a nice mud hut during the Stone Age. But for 1994? Forget about it.

It started even before we bought the place. Think the real estate agent could give us a printout of homes in our price range? Oh, no. Instead, my wife and I have to flip through hundreds of smudgy pages of real estate books. Make a little note here, a list there. And get a computerized copy of recent real estate sales in town? Right.

It's not like the agent docsn't have all this stuff on her Macintosh or anything — she does. Since when does it hurt business to make it easier for customers to spend money? It's not like we're going to turn around and sell the information they give us, for Pete's sake.

So by some miracle, a couple of months later we manage to find a nice little place. It's a good thing we prequalified for the loan. I mean, from start to finish, it takes nearly two months for the bank to let us sign our lives away. All this for a process that requires, what, maybe 15 minutes of paper shuffling and five minutes of credit checking?

Why can't an industry that spends, I don't know, maybe \$10 zillion a year on computers approve a mortgage in less time than it takes to build the average house?

#### The tip of the iceberg

So moving day approaches. A week before the big day, I call the big national moving company that's supposed to do the job. "Sorry, Mr. Rant," the local owner/operator says. "It looks like your truck somehow got rerouted. No, we don't know exactly where, maybe Colorado. But the driver is supposed to call by this Thursday." We finally get another truck — a week late.

It turns out that was just the warm-up. A month later we need to rent a smaller truck to pick up a couch my sister is giving us. It doesn't take me long to figure out there must be a better way to check how many trucks are available in the metropolitan area than by calling every dealer in the yellow pages and asking,

"Do you have any trucks this weekend?"

But not one of these socalled major chains has a computer system that can tell them if their franchise in the *next town* has what I'm looking for. There's no computer linking any of these businesses, so I end up calling maybe 15 or 18 rental places. And don't even ask me about how badly they serew up my bill.

So then we decide to switch from oil to gas to heat our hot water. We call the local gas company. Sorry, we have to visit the office to make the request. So we do.

We talk to the woman who handles new accounts; then we talk to the scheduling department, then back to the woman in new accounts, then to the rental program person. Later that week we talk to the plumber hired to install the meter. Then we talk to the guy who drills the hole so the meter can go in.

In the end, guess how many calls and visits it takes to install a new gas meter and hot water heater? Twenty. I mean, the guy who makes the muffins at my local eoffee shop has heard about re-engineering. Think maybe *he* ought to be running these utilities?

I could go on and on. For instance, we

bought a new bed, and the store overcharged me \$50 for delivery. The saleswoman explained that because of the way these things are processed, it would take two months for my account to be credited. It's been four months, and I'm

Why can't an

industry that

spends...

maybe \$10

zillion a year on

computers

approve a

mortgage in

less time than it

takes to build

the average

house?

still waiting.

Oh, did I mention my tax bill? Turns out it's gonna take a year for my local uncomputerized Registry of Deeds to transfer the property title to my name. Until then, I have to clomp down to Town Hall and pick up my own bill, which is still under the previous owner's name. Cheesh.

Don't get me wrong. Not every company l've used suffers from Clue Deficit Disorder. For example, I went to The Home Depot, applied for a credit account and, bingo, 15 minutes later I

was charging Sheetrock and ripsaws like Home Improvement's Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor.

And I did hear recently that Fannie Mae and one of the big mortgage companies are working on a mortgage whose waiting time is not measured in dog years. Wonders never cease.

But let me tell you: It'll be a long time before I hang a tapestry in my living room that says, "Computer Sweet Computer."

In real life, the pseudonymous Rant is an angry consumer of information technology and a *Computerworld* senior editor. He may still be one of your company's customers.

#### Intelligence

#### Files

#### **Speaking in IS tongues**

Just when information systems professionals thought they had found a common language with business users, along came client/server to introduce a new Tower of Techno-Babel.

According to Paul Mulligan, vice president of operations research at Fidelity Investments in Boston, the move to client/server has introduced a whole new technology sublanguage. The result is that business users are again scratching their heads when IS staff try to talk turkey with them. That isn't helping bridge the communications gap that already existed, Mulligan notes.

Mulligan says the language barrier is also showing up between client/server aficionados and mainframe veterans. Speaking before the Boston chapter of the Association for Systems Management recently, Mulligan, who has 20 years of experience in IS, noted that when his younger IS staffers come to him with a client/server problem, he often finds himself confessing to senior management, "I don't know what they said,

but it doesn't sound good."

#### IS not tops on their list

Few top U.S. manufacturing companies plan to significantly invest in new manufacturing control system software, and disappointment with the results of manufacturing resource planning (MRP) II is a major factor.

That is one of the findings of a survey of more than 300 senior-level manufacturing executives at companies and corporate divisions with sales of more than \$25 million. The survey asked manufacturing executives what steps their companies are taking to gain competitive advantage. Topping their responses were total quality management, continuous improvement, business process re-engineering, cycle time reduction and improved customer service.

But the same executives are dissatisfied with their current information systems and therefore plan no major IS investments. They cited disappointing performance of MRP II and a skepticism of the return on investment (ROI) from technology. They indicated "the real ROI" was to be found in quality improvement, cycle time reduction and improved delivery performance.

Source: Survey by R. Michael Donovan, Inc., Natick, Mass

#### Leveraging IS for advantage

To help companies leverage technology for competitive advantage, an Institute for Business Innovation (IBI) has formed in Portland, Ore. The institute announced the faculty for its first educational offering next month that reads like a who's who of MIT's Sloan School of Management.

The institute, a division of Sequent Computer Systems, Inc., was established "to provide a foundation upon which senior business and technology executives can apply information technology effectively," according to institute spokeswoman Linda Duchaine.

The first educational series will be a five-day program titled "Aligning Business and Technology for Competitive Advantage." It will be offered at Babson College's Center for Executive Education in Wellesley, Mass., Jan. 15-19 and at the Chamindate Executive Conference Center in Santa Cruz, Calif., March 12-16.

MIT Sloan School instructors who will serve as faculty for the series include Chris F. Kernercr, associate professor; Donald R. Lessard, professor of international management information; Stuart Madnick, professor of information technology; Michael S. Scott Morton, professor of management; Jeanne W. Ross research associate at the Center for Information, Systems Research; Michael Sicgel, principal research scientist; John Sterman, professor of management science; and David Tennenhouse, MIT associate professor.

John C. Henderson, professor of management information systems at the Boston University School of Management, and Lary Krakauer, vice president of JYACC, Inc., will also be on the faculty.

For information on the institute or the education series, contact Linda Duchaine, The Institute for Business Innovation, 1 World Trade Center, Suite 1100, Portland, Ore. 97204, (800) 933-0088, fax (503) 578-5010.

#### Database is a delight

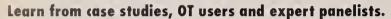
Professional Services Management Association in Charlotte, N.C., recently honored organizations that have helped improve the business management of architectural, engineering and other design and consulting firms. Among them was Al/Boggs, a planning and architecture firm in Washington that created a relational database to track marketing information. The database links valuable information and generates reports, including prospect lead lists, sales call reports and staff resumes.

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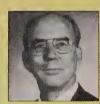
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Jon Hopkins, President of Palladio Software, will conduct a panel discussion, "Theory Is Great—But Does It Get The Job Done?" Three methodologists will discuss how their peers' methodology addresses the issues related to object models and iterative development.



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David Taylor, Ph.D., President of Enterprise Engines, will discuss "Business Engineering With Object Technology." Find out how companies are using OT to improve productivity and increase profits.

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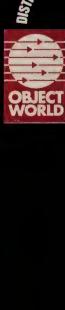
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- 70. Mining/Construction/Petroleum/Refining/Agnc. 80. Manufacturer of Computers, Computer-Related
- Systems or Peripherals

  85. Systems Integrators, VARs, Computer Service
  Bureaus, Software Planning & Consulting Services

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### Calendar

JAN. 8-14

The 1995 Data Security Conference. Redwood Shores, Calif., Jan. 9-11 — Keynote speaker will be John Anderson, former eongressman and Independent candidate for U.S. president. Fees: \$295, \$195 for students. Contact: RSA Data Security, Inc., Redwood City, Calif. (415) 595-

Conference on the Information Superhighway. Burlingame, Calif., Jan. 12-13 — Contact: Mindy Ha, Center for Information Technology and Management, University of California, Berkeley (510) 643-5316.

#### JAN. 15-21

First Annual Mobile Communications '95 Conference. Dallas, Jan. 16-18 — The conference will address North American, European and Pacific Rim regions, marketing strategies used in these regions and regulatory and legislative matters aimed at mobile equipment vendors and service providers. Contact: Frost & Sullivan, Inc., Santa Clarita, Calif. (800) 256-1076.

1995 Usenix Technical on Advanced Computing **Systems.** New Orleans, Jan. 16-20 — Contact: Usenix Association, Berkeley, Calif. (510) 528-8649.

SoftExpo '95. San Jose, Calif., Jan. 17-19 — The conference will focus on business and technical issues faeing software firms. Sessions include product development; marketing and sales; technical support; customer service; translation, or "localization"; finance; licensing; packaging and manufacturing. Contact: Mark Cramer, Expomasters, Englewood, Calif. (303) 771-2000.

Mobile Outlook on Communications and Computing. Atlanta, Jan. 18-20 — The three-day conference will focus on how to integrate mobile systems into a fixed computing environment, how much of what is now in place must change to permit remote aecess, how and when to make required hardware and software modifications and why some promising pilot programs suceeed while others fail. Contact: David A. Kaminer, Kotch & Poliak, Inc., New York, N.Y. (212) 486-

#### JAN. 22-28

ComNet '95 Conference & Exposition. Washington, Jan. 23-26 - Products and technologies to be exhibited will include the following: internetworking hubs, bridges, routers, gateways, modems, network applications, databases, private branch exchange-to-computer applications, multimedia, videoconferencing, LANs, servers, adapters, wiring, backup and network services, local and long-distance services, mobile computing, portable and handheld computers, elient software, wireless data services, network management and security. Contact: IDG World Expo, Framingham, Mass. (508) 879-6700.

#### JAN. 29-FEB. 4

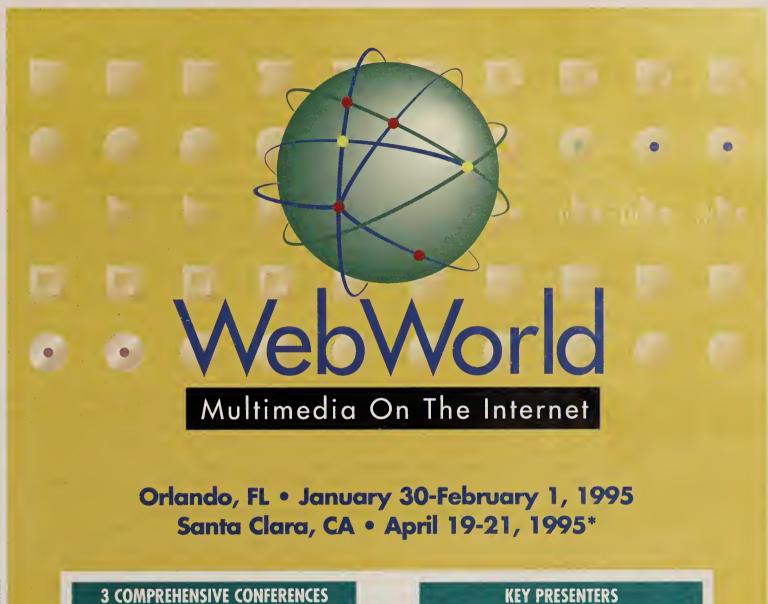
Special Libraries Association 1995 Winter Education Conference. Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 29-31 — Theme: Managing information technology. Contaet: Special Libraries Association, Washington, D.C. (202) 234-4700.

The 1995 Financial EDI Conference. San Jose, Calif., Jan. 29-Feb. 1 — Seminars include "How to Define, Organize and Manage the EDI Committee," "Managing Electronic Commerce Integration," "Applying Project Management to Financial EDI Implementation" and "Hop on the Highway: Electronic Commerce on the Internet." Fees: \$850, \$750 for early registration. Contact: Financial EDI Conference Registrar National Automated Clearing House Association, Baltimore, Md. (703) 742-9190.

Second Annual Display Manufacturing Technology Conference. Santa Clara, Calif., Jan. 31-Feb. 2 — Contact: Mark Goldfarb, Palisades Institute for Research Services, Arlington, Va. (800) 787Chargeback for Centralized and Distributed Processing. Las Vegas, Feb. 1-3 — Contact: Financial Management for Data Processing, San Francisco, Calif. (415) 731-3706.

#### FEB. 5-11

Demo '95. Palm Springs, Calif., Feb. 5-8 — The conference will include product demonstrations, product premieres and head-to-head product showdowns. Contact: InfoWorld Editorial Events, San Mateo, Calif. (800) 633-4312.



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Dec. 26- Jan.	Dec.	Dec.	Annual Forecast Issue: A look at key issues and trends that will impact IS Professionals in 1995.	
Jan.	Dec. 23	Dec. 30	CW Guide To: Color Printers Choosing the right printer: With numerous printing technologies (dye sublimation, thermal-wax, color laser and ink-jet) available today, what kind of printer best fits the needs and budgets of business users on LANs and corporate systems? How do you cost justify the move to color?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Color printers for large organizations from market-leading manufacturers.  Firing Line: A color printer offering the latest technology such as dye sublimation or best alternative.	
an. 16	Dec.	Jan.	Closer Look: Client/Server Human Resource Applications	Starch Study
lan. 23	Jan.	Jan. 13	CW Guide To: Enterprise Network Management How much can you manage?: How far have the leading enterprise network management platforms progressed in supporting the diverse platforms and functions needed by users on LANs and WANs across the organization?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Dominant network management platforms from major vendors Firing Line: The latest most feature-rich enterprise network management alternative.	ComNet Washington D.C. 1/23 - 1/26
an. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	CW Guide To: RAID Storage Devices Large systems RAID, where does it fit in? With new RAID systems on the market packing incredible amounts of storage capacity in shrinking footprint space, the choices are better than ever. Should your DASD be replaced with RAID or should RAID be an adjunct to your current investment? Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: The market leading large systems RAID products. Firing Line: The latest RAID system for enterprise users.	
eb.	Dec.	Dec.  Computerworld Client/Server Journal Vertical Market Focus: Banking Section Feature: Product Focus on Networking		Software Developers' Harvey Conference Study Networks Expo UniForum Object World Interop + Networld
eb.	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Special Quarterly Report: Re-engineering the Workplace	
eb. 13	Jan. 27	Feb.	CW Guide To: PC Communications Software Making connections: What are the pros and cons of various methods and products that provide remote access links to LANs and servers? How do they deal with security and reliability issues? What are the most cost effective methods?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Market-leading PC remote access software packages.  Firing Line: Latest remote access software for server connections.	Software Developers' Conference, San Francisco 2/13 - 2/17 Networks Expo, Boston 2/14 - 2/16
eb.	Feb.	Feb.	Closer Look: Videoconferencing	
eb. 27	Feb.	Feb. 17	CW Guide To: Notebook Computers The price of portability? Users are most concerned about the key features of portability — notebook size, weight and battery life. Which vendors offer the best portability, reliability and support.  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Notebooks from the top vendors based on market strength, reliability & support.  Firing Line: Latest multimedia-enabled notebook from a leading vendor  Custom Publication: Manufacturing White Paper: Defining Enterprise Resources Planning (part 1 of 4-part Manufacturing Series)	
March	Feb.	Feb.	Closer Look: Enterprise Software Distribution Tools Custom Publication: White Paper on Object Technology	
March 13	Feb. 24	March 3	CW Guide To: RISC Servers Server Strategies: Short-term server purchases may be a matter of price/performance, but which systems make the most sense as long-term strategic platforms? Should users target different servers for every application or standardize on the best alternative?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Market leading RISC servers.  Firing Line: Latest RISC server from a top vendor.  Custom Publication: White Paper on Enterprise Application Development (part 1 of 4-part Enterprise Software Directions Series)	UniForum Starch Dallas Study 3/14 - 3/16
March	March 3	March 10	Closer Look: Object-oriented Development Tools	Object World Boston 3/20-3/23
March 27	March 10	March 17	CW Guide To: LAN Management Vendors continue to add more sophisticated management capabilities to their peer-to-peer LAN management packages. How well do they address performance, security and tracking issues. How do these packages fit under the companywide network management umbrella?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Market-leading peer-to-peer LAN management packages.  Firing Line: The latest software to consolidate LAN management for the organization.	Interop + Networld Las Vegas 3/28 - 3/30

Editorial contacts (508) 879-0700 Management Features: Allan Alter, Closer Look: James Connolly, CW Guide Articles: Michael Sullivan-Trainor, Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Michael Sullivan-Trainor, Firing Line: Kevin Burden, Re-engineering the Workplace: Joe Maglitta Custom Publications are written independently of the Computerworld editorial staff. For advertising information contact Carolyn Novack at (508) 879-0700. \* Includes ads within special editorial features and premium positions.

### Computerworld Editorial Calendar

April - June, 1995

Issue Dates		osings * B&W	Editorial Features & Custom Publications	Show Distribution & Ad Read-ship Strick Issued
April	Feb.		Computerworld Client/Server Journal Vertical Market Focus: Health Care Section Feature: Product Focus on Databases	AIIM Harvey Comdex Spring/ Study Windows World SIM Spring Conference DB Expo
April	March 17	March 24	Closer Look: PC Spreadsheets Custom Publication: Windows World Open Supplement	
April 10	March 24	March 31	CW Guide To: Document Management Imaging and e-mail packages offer varying approaches to document management. Which approach is the most cost-effective and best fits your company's needs? How easily can documents be moved across platforms and applications?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Image processing packages for document mgmt. from the leading vendors. Firing Line: Evaluation of latest software conforming to new open document standards.	AIIM San Francisco 4/11 - 4/13
April 17	March 31	April 7	Closer Look: IBM AS/400	Starch Study
April 24	April 7	April 14	CW Guide To: 32-BIT Operating Systems Preparing your organization for 32-bit operating systems: How well do the leading products support enterprise requirements such as reliability, technical support and standards in their present and future products and strategies? Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Operating system face-off: 32-bit systems. Firing Line: Latest 32-bit operating system for corporate users.	Comdex Spring/ Windows World Atlanta 4/24 - 4/27
May	April 14	April 21	IS Management Special: CEO Survey CEOs evaluate the role of technology in their companies and their relationship with IS. Special Quarterly Report: Re-engineering the Workplace	SIM Spring Conference, Phoenix 5/1 - 5/3 DB Expo, San Francisco 5/1 - 5/5 Executive Technology Summit Phoenix 5/3 - 5/5
May 8	April 21	April 28	CW Guide To: Systems Integration Which systems integrators can best provide support for client/server projects? What guidelines should be used to evaluate them? How should the decision be made?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: User satisfaction ratings of top systems integrators with client/server capability.  Firing Line: Spotlight on major client/server systems integration project involving one or more leading vendors.	Starch Study
May 15	April 28	May 5	Closer Look: On-line Information Services	
May 22	May 5	May 12	CW Guide To: Database Development Tools With database tools coming from multiple directions (database vendors, application builders, and middleware makers), which tool set makes the most sense for your environment? Is a "best of breed" approach feasible and cost effective?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: The market leading database development tools.  Firing Line: High profile hot new development tool.	
May 29	May 12	May 19	Closer Look: Windows Utilities	
June 1	April 12		Computerworld Client/Server Journal Vertical Market Focus: Retail Section Feature: Product Focus on Development Tools	Mobile World Harvey Int'l DB2 Users Group Study Client/Server World PC Expo
June 5	May 19	May 26	CW Guide To: Application Suites Software suites that give you three, four or five integrated applications are to "suite" to pass on when individual packages add up to much higher prices. But there are some difficulties in administering suites on a network and meeting individual user preferences. How do you balance a suite strategy with a desire for "best of breed" applications?  Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Application suites for the enterprise from leading vendors.  Firing Line: Evaluation of latest application suite as part of an enterprise implementation.  Custom Publication: Manufacturing White Paper: Supply-chain Management (part 2 of 4-part Manufacturing Series)	Mobile World Dallas 6/6 - 6/8
June 12	May 26	June 2	Closer Look: Wireless Local Area Networks Custom Publication: White Paper Enterprise Systems & Network Management (part 2 of 4-part Enterprise Software Directions Series)	Int'l DB2 Users Group Starch Orlando, FL Study 6/11 - 6/15 Client/Server World, Boston 6/13 - 6/15
June 19	June 2	June 9	CW Guide To: PC Servers How can your organization benefit from PC-based servers? Can PC servers deliver the same reliability and price/performance as RISC-based systems? What are the risks involved? Buyers' Satisfaction Scorecard: Market leading Intel-based PC servers. Firing Line: The latest PowerPC-based server or best alternative.	PC Expo New York City 6/20 - 6/22
June	June	June 16	IS Management Special	

# In Depth

# SOUNDOET THE

AT ISSUE: Is the Mac a serious business machine? No way, says a PC backer, claiming a lack of Mac applications and vendor support. But a proponent says the PowerPC chip and multimedia features make the Mac a powerful tool.



#### BY DAN DOEHLER

Apple Computer, Inc.'s Macintosh never was, is not now and never will be a smart decision for business environments.

I'm not alone in this assessment. All you have to do is pick up a trade newspaper and read about how major Maeintosh business sites — The Boeing Co., Ernst & Young and Visa International, Inc. — are phasing out their Mac environments.

The Mae experiment at my eompany has failed, too. Our Macintoshes, chosen six to eight months ago by our training department to train salespeople, are gathering dust.

Currently, Apple and rabid Macintosh users maintain that the PowerPC will turn the aging Mae into a force to be reckoned with. Unfortunately, this latest attempt to bolster sales is only going to make things worse.

l agree with industry guru Ted Prince, who argues that the PowerPC is immediately useful only if you run native software on it for high-end, graphies-type programs, which rules out most of the general business populace. Users shouldn't hold their breath waiting for native software for their favorite applications, he says.

And Windows 95, the next version of Windows, may really make Apple whimper, with what is essentially an updated version of the Macintosh operating system. Good old Windows, with all its kludginess, is already hurting the Mac in business settings, Prinee points out. Apple's headaches only mount when you bring in Microsoft Corp.'s sliek, Macintosh-like Windows 95, which I got a chance to see during a demonstration at Comdex/Fall'94. That program is bound to do some damage. Arrivederci, Mac baby.

The PowerPC has been taking a beating against Intel Corp. Pentium-based machines in laboratory tests. In one test by *PC World*, an Atronics International, Ine, processor outperformed the 66-MHz Power Macintosh 7100 in all areas except serolling a spreadsheet. And the Power Macintosh machine costs \$800 more! Worse performance at a higher price. Hmmm, that's not something I'm looking for.

Why change when you have everything you want in the Intel processor? I get reliability and a proven track record with my PCs. I also feel secure because many vendors support the Windows operating environment. Apple's operating system gets support only from Apple. At one point, Apple had major developers creating software only for it. Now these very companies are developing software for other operating systems.

#### Aging system, limited apps

I just can't see limiting myself to an aging operating system with a new chip and maybe 200 applications. I'd rather have access to the best continually improving operating system — Windows — and to the thousands of applications that run with it.

At Comdex, I experienced firstliand the difference in numbers between software available for Apple machines and the software available for Intel-based machines. In looking across the immense show floor, there were little Windows trademarks stretched as far as I could see in all directions. Apple software was there, of course, but it didn't have the market presence on which I'd like to base my business.

Doehler, page 98

 $\label{thm:condition} Doehler is 1S \, manager \, at \, Del \, Papa \, Distributing \, Co., \\ a \, wholesaler \, of \, Anheuser-Busch \, products \, in \, Texas \, City, \, Texas.$ 

If you want to gamble your business, buy Mac



**DOEHLER:** Windows 95 will multiply Apple's headaches

# is dead for business

#### BY MATT GHOURDJIAN

Information systems managers who have limited experience with Apple Computer, lnc.'s Macintosh have stated three main reasons for not buying the Macintosh: it costs less to acquire basic PC hardware, you can purchase PCs from multiple vendors (while you can get the Macintosh only from Apple) and there is more software available on the PC platform.

Those reasons don't have merit anymore.

The Macintosh now holds a substantial price/performance advantage over comparably equipped PCs since the introduction of the Centris-class computers in February 1993, according to a report by Ingram Micro, Inc.'s laboratory in Santa Ana, Calif. High-quality on-board video, built-in 16-bit sound and other services make it price-competitive right out of the box.

The machine is also cheaper to own. Gartner Group, Inc. found in its recent annual survey that the five-year cost of owning a Macintosh is \$6,000 less than that of owning a comparable Windows-based machine. Those savings stem from Macintosh's short learning curve, which translates into lower training costs. People use this machine.

With the Power Macintosh, the advantage will widen. The Power Macintosh is the only true multiple personality system, running DOS, Windows and Apple OS and, by next year, PowerOpen (Unix), OS/2 and Taligent, Inc.'s Taligent. Also by next year, IS chiefs will be able to buy a Mac from IBM and Motorola, Inc., which will result in more competition and innovation.

As for the complaint that there are few Macintosh programs on the market, that's changing. The difference in the number of Windows and Macintosh programs is insignificant, with most popular programs already available on both platforms.

#### Users love it

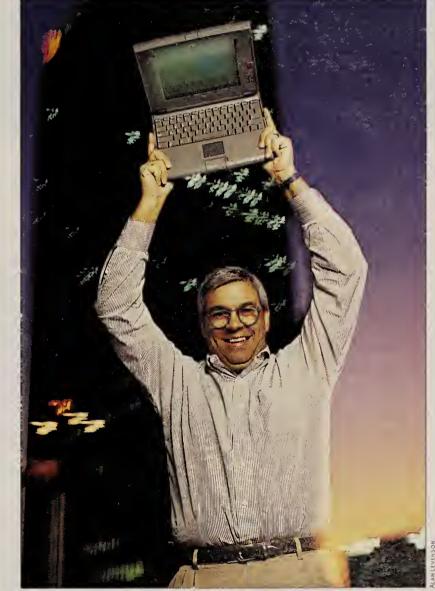
The Macintosh's ease of use and intuitive nature puts it far ahead of the PC in empowering workers and increasing productivity. While the average user in today's PC environment is happy to master electronic mail and rudimentary word processing, the average Mac user at my firm uses 15 to 20 desktop productivity applications. Four years ago, it was a struggle to get a PC on the desk of senior partners at Howrey & Simon. Today, all of them have Macintoshes on their desks and at home. Most carry PowerBooks when they travel.

If corporate IS managers were evaluated on how much end users used computers and how productive they were, you would see more Macintoshes and fewer PCs.

From an IS viewpoint, the Macintosh is easy to install and maintain. Because the Macintosh comes with high-speed networking and can be connected to existing networks with ease, it takes my IS staff less than 20 minutes to configure a new Mac and load all the software. We support 850 Macintoshes in three offices with only seven end-user support personnel.

The Mac has the PC beat in terms of market value, too. In April 1990, Apple introduced the Macintosh IIFX, around the same time IBM introduced PCs based on the Intel Corp. I386 microprocessor. Today, according to United Computer Exchange, that Macintosh IIFX is worth about \$1,250, while a comparable PC is worth about \$225.

Ghourdjian, page 98



GHOURDJIAN: Apple's operating system safeguards customers

PCs cost more, give you less than Macs

Ghourdjian is national director of technology at the law firm of Howrey & Simon, which has offices in Los Angeles and Washington.

#### Doehler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 96

And the Macintosh software just plain costs more. For example, Microsoft's Excel for Windows costs \$299. You'll shell out \$100 more for the Apple version. That \$100 difference adds up pretty quickly if you happen to have a few thousand Maeintoshes.

To give it a shot in the arm, perhaps, Apple is teaming with IBM to develop a new

hardware standard that will converge the IBM/Motorola, Inc. PowerPC Referenee Platform with Apple's architecture into a new platform, known as AIM (Apple, IBM, Motorola). A better aeronym for this union might be MIA — missing in action — because this new architecture

SOUND

reportedly not be available until 1996. It will miss its window of opportunity and

arrive too late to have any impact on Windows.

#### PCs instead of Macs

In the end, Apple seems to be preaching to the eonverted with its Power Maeintosh line. A recent report from Computer Intelligence InfoCorp says that those eorporate buyers most interested in Power Maeintoshes are already those firmly established in Apple's camp universities and schools. Cl InfoCorp's monthly interviews of 30,000 end users reveal something just as disturbing: Even with the Power Maeintosh launch, there still seems to be a gradual replacement of Maeintoshes with Intel PCs, with no sign this trend is abating.

I'll keep my PCs, thank you.



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#### Ghourdjian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

The huge gap in value between the two machines is directly attributable to Apple's solid support in its operating systems for older machines. Even in the eompany's move to System 7.5 and RISCbased PowerPC microprocessors, it safeguards its customers. Apple provides upgrades for most eurrent machines to the PowerPC platform, while System 7.5 will run on just about any Maeintosh ever built. That gives IS managers protection from obsolescenee.

Next summer, when PC users get their first look at Windows 95, the next version of Windows, Power Maeintosh users will see the new Apple operating system 8.0, code-named Copland. With the release of Copland and its new microkernel design, Apple will deliver pre-emptive multitasking and full-protected memory. In addition, the operating system will sport a completely new user interface that will challenge the DOS/Windows world.

Windows 95 carries the past with it beeause it's written in native Intel code and still has 16-bit calls. Copland, on the other hand, is completely rewritten to take advantage of the PowerPC. It readies users for the migration to the 64-bit operating environment. In the next two years, armed with this new performance edge, the Maeintosh will lead the way in communication technologies such as voice reeognition, multimedia, telephony and collaboration.

With more than 500 native Power Macintosh software programs now shipping, it is safe to say the computer industry has just witnessed one of the smoothest hardware and software transitions in history.

Conventional wisdom might say the safe decision is to buy PC; after all, 85% of the market does. But during the next 18 months, as the Macintosh platform moves to the PowerPC 604 and 620 microprocessors and the price/performanee gap widens between the Power Macintosh and the PC, I suspect there will be more than one IS manager who will wonder why he didn't buy Mae.

But even more important, the PC world faees the limited life of the CICS arehitecture and Windows. Meanwhile, the Power Macintosh is positioned for a long period of growth and stability.

Better price/performance, cheaper to own, much easier to use and plugged in to the future. Is the Macintosh dead as a business machine? Hardly.

The COMPUTERWORLD Comedy Store The COMPUTERWORLD

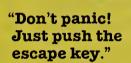
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# Computer Careers

# EDI gatekeepers

Management of electronic data interchange partnerships may not fall onto IS' shoulders, but technical professionals can contribute in significant ways

By Leslie Goff

Although clectronic data interchange (EDI) may rely on data and communications technologies, the information systems department's role is generally limited to that of liaison, gatekeeper and translator.

IS staffers must understand the technology's impact on how business is conducted, but their work centers around the smooth, cost-efficient, day-to-day operation of EDI at their companies, not the management of EDI partnerships.

"The value [that information technology] provides is ensuring we have the most cost-reliable communications and that we map the data in a way that adheres to the standards," says Betty Zimmerman, manager of projects at Texaco, Inc. and chairman of the Gulf Coast EDI User Group, both in Houston.

#### Coordinator's role

An EDI coordinator, as the IS contact is usually designated, must be grounded in the business processes supported and affected by EDI. The person is an integral contributor to EDI partnerships but remains largely a supporting player.

"Once you set up the electronic link with the trading partner, you don't really

deal with them, unless you're upgrading or responding to a problem," says Linda Swatosh, a senior analyst/EDI coordinator at Dctroit Edison in Michigan. "The role should be transparent unless there's a problem.'

But that shouldn't minimize IS's involvement in EDI. Responsibility for EDI operations within IS can fall on one or

several shoulders, depending on the volume of a company's EDI transactions and the overall IS structure (see story page 101). However duties are delegated, the job covers five principal areas: maintaining communications links; enforcing EDI standards; maintaining EDI translation software; mapping data; and EDI applications development, integration and

For example, Detroit Edison is using EDI for purchasing and outbound billing and is actively launching other applications. Swatosh is responsible for the utility's mainframe software, including IBM's Data Interchange, an EDI translation package.

But with each EDI project, Swatosh has gradually turned most of the other work over to the users. "Our first application was purchasing, and I had a purchasing rep come over to IS for a while," Swatosh says. "They took the expertise back with them. I've continued that with more departmental EDI rcps."

Larger EDI users tend to take a more team-oriented approach. Texaco, Zim-EDI gatekeepers, page 101

### Study the standards

anaging EDI transmissions without keeping abreast of your industry's EDI standards is akin to driving cross-country without a map. If you want to demonstrate IS's value to the EDI partnership, at least participate in a regional EDI user group if not in an industry-specific

"Those are the only forums you have for ad-

dressing issues relative to the improper use of the standards," says Paul Lemme, vice president of professional services at TSI International Software, an EDI software and services firm in Wilton, Conn. "EDI is designed to eliminate the need for partner-by-partner specifics. If your company

The Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc. can put vou in touch with industry-specific EDI user groups. Call (703) 548-7005.

or its partners don't adhere to the rules, you're forced into a proprietary relationship, and the benefits of EDI are lost."

Industry-specific EDI standards organizations work to influence ANSI X.12 standards and help members conform to industry implementations.

"The standards change every four months, and most of the user communities [update] once a year," Lemme says. "It's important to stay current or the relationship becomes a proprietary one."

Regional and local EDI user groups tend to be more informal than standards organizations, offering speakers, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities. More than 30 of these groups are scattered coastto-coast. (For a complete guide to EDI user

groups and standards organizations, see "EDI idea factories," CW, Nov. 29, 1993.)

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## EDI gatekeepers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 100

merman says, has an information technology/EDI team responsible for the EDI infrastructure, translation and communications, while EDI applications fall under the province of business applications

Likewise, a centralized team at Southwestern Bell Telcphone in St. Louis supports about 10 major EDI applications, maps the data and maintains the EDI communications links and translation software, says Susan Watson, electronic commerce function manager of information services and a founding member of the Greater St. Louis EDI Forum.

#### No experience needed

Because EDI brings together a variety of IS specialties, you don't need an EDI project on your resume to join an EDI ef-

"Prior EDI experience is not required because we can do the EDI training and, typically, we wouldn't have a lot of people

available" to choose from, Zimmerman says. But, "EDI applications experience definitely sets you apart from the crowd."

While knowledge of EDI standards and experience implementing them in your industry are a plus, all you really need is any combination of experience in the areas of applications development and support, telecommunications or mainframe software programming and excel-

## Value-adding jobs

esponsibility for managing EDI partnerships tends to fall on the applications' users, but IS professionals can add value to the partnership. Of course, titles and positions vary with company size. For example, firms with only a few trading partners may have one EDI coordinator responsible for mapping and translation, application programming and day-to-day operations, including linking to new partners, says Dale Gordon, president of Commerce-Link, an EDI recruitment firm in Tampa, Fla. Conversely, companies with thousands of partners may have one or two EDI coordinators, several programmer/analysts or business analysts and an EDI team leader.

#### **EDI** coordinator:

Technical liaison between the company and its trading partners; responsible for day-to-day operations; assists in establishing trading partner agreements and service levels;

advises business units on EDI software and hardware selection and choosing communications protocols; tracks the status of document transmittals and translations; provides on-site and phone support to EDI users; keeps up with stateof-the-art developments in EDI and monitors vendor progress; participates in X.12 standards development; reports to EDI team leader. Annual salary: \$40,000 to \$50,000.

#### EDI programmer/analyst:

Integrates EDI translation software with business applications; maps translated EDI data into the appropriate applications; develops and tests new maps; establishes EDI disaster recovery plan; may be responsible for the conmunications links with trading partners; reports to EDI coordinator or team leader. Annual salary: \$45,000 to \$55,000.

#### **EDI** team leader:

Manages the overall EDI effort from the technical side; spearheads new development projects in electronic commerce. Annual salary: \$45,000 to \$60,000.

Source: CommerceLink, Tampa, Fla.

lent personal communications skills.

Watson, for example, says she looks for "a good [information technology] professional who has the technology base in translation software [and] IBM

ner's applications environment. In the partner relationship, you must be sensitive to the typical applications' limitations," she says.

Electronic purchase orders, for exam-

ple, are generally just automated versions of paper purchase orders, which allow only one name in each

"ship to" field. While one company may modify this paper purchase order restriction to take advantage of the economies of scale of EDI, its trading partners may not.

Zimmerman notes that EDI coordinators must be able to deal with the implications of the various applications used by trading partners.

Zimmerman's example underscores the importance of having a business perspective in addition to solid technical skills. To move EDI support out of the shadows and into the footlights, EDI professionals on the information technology side must facilitate real change in how the company conducts business.

"Many EDI professionals think of themselves as technologists and don't think of the process they're supporting," says Barbara Reilly, research director for electronic commerce strategies at Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn.

"People working to support the effort should be involved in the business process and understand it and should be acting as systems design types rather than pure technology/operations types," Rcilly adds. "First look at the process and then at how to best incorporate electronic commerce into the process. Make EDI an enabler to change the process."

Goff is a free-lance writer in New York.

#### You don't need an EDI project on your resume to join the effort. A number of IS specialties will do. However, EDI applications experience definitely sets you apart from the crowd.

mainframes — a good Cobol programmer. But, you're also on the phone a lot, and it's really important to be able to represent your company well."

#### **Knowing your limits**

Zimmerman also favors strong data analysis skills. "When dealing with EDI, you may be proactive in changing the way you do business, but you can't im-

## pose those kinds of changes on the part-

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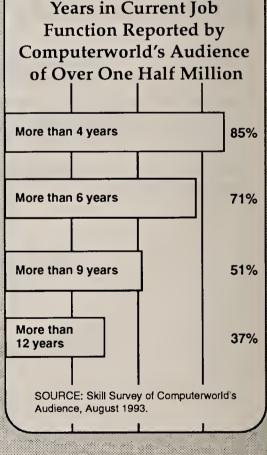
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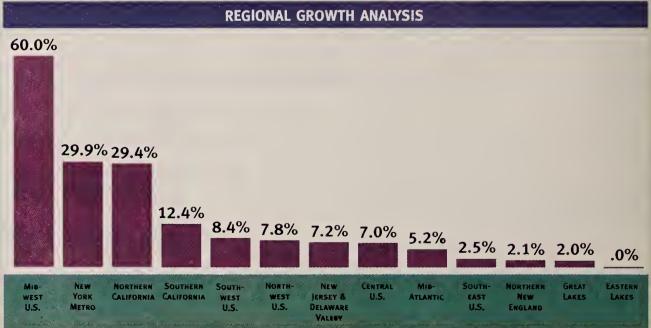
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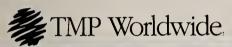
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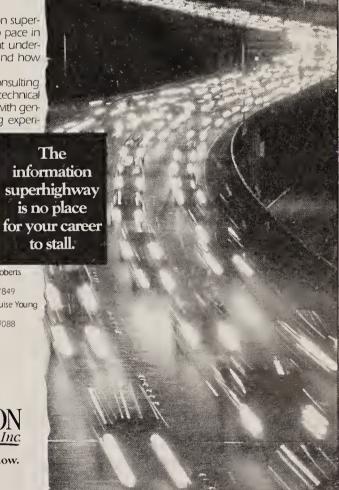
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## RENEGADE PIMS

Unmanaged **personal information managers** can spell disaster down the road when users want to share information. **Standardize now.** 

By Lynn Haber

Personal information managers (PIM) are in vogue if rising sales are any indication. But fashion doesn't always beget function, particularly when it results in PIM users breaking ranks with corporate standards.

While there is no way of knowing how many backdoor PIM users exist in any given organization, it's likely that of the 80% of consumers who independently buy PIMs, a fair number load them onto their PCs at work. Information systems staffs might choose not to take notice of them now, but down the road PIMs can become a royal headache.

"IS must be aware that at some point users will want to exchange PIM-related information, like directories or sales, with other users and have access to legacy data," says Karl Wong, principal analyst for PC and workgroup software at Dataquest, Inc. in San Jose, Calif.

Organizations may not be able to stop individuals from buying PIMs, but proactive measures can ward off chaos. For example, standardizing on an office automation suite that includes PIM functionality would, by default, mean standardizing on a PIM. Another method is to allow departments to buy and manage their own PIMs.

Managers at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington never cared what software individual users loaded onto their machines, says Gerald LaVeck, program manager at the EPA's Clean Water Act office and one of several renegade PIM users in his group. However, as the EPA migrates some 55 offices and 9,500 people to a LAN environment, word from management is that renegade software is out.

#### Forced to choose

For LaVeck and some 20 other ad hoc PIM users, standardization means PerfectOffice from WordPerfect, the Novell, Inc. Applications Group. "The organization was particularly interested in finding a program for E-mail and group scheduling," he says. Eventually, the onus will be on renegade PIM users to peacefully stop using their PIM software or deal with using two systems, only one of which will be supported.

Although LaVeck is adamant about



Source: Dataquest, Inc., San Jose, Calif.

continuing to use his chosen PIM—Lotus Development Corp.'s Organizer 1.1—he admits the peer pressure to conform will be enormous. "What happens when 1 don't show up for a meeting and someone says they sent me an E-mail message and it was posted on the scheduler?" he asks.

At the organizational level, Wong estimates corporations purchase 20% of PIM products. "Companies that buy these products look at them primarily as group schedulers, not as PIMs," he says. Moreover, the boundaries be-

tween PIMs, contact managers and even sales automation software are blurring.

users.

"We're seeing vendors of basic PIM products add more features like contact management and vendors of high-end sales automation software make their products easier to use and less expensive," Wong says.

When PIMs are brought into an organization for group scheduling and coordination, management is most likely involved with the purchase of the product as well as its maintenance and support.

Yvonne Walker, add-on sales manager at Sakris Systems, a systems integrator in Birmingham, Ala., says a lot of planning went into the selection of the PIM that would synchronize the work of her organization's 17 field salespeople and in-house telemarketers.

"We needed a product that would allow our salespeople and telemarketers to share customer contact and sales database information," Walker says. Goldmine for Windows, from Elan Software Corp. in Pacific Palisades, Calif., allows Sakris Systems' employees to track referrals, appointments and callbacks and to forecast sales.

Standardizing on a PIM was impor-

**Heading off disaster** 

Until now, the issue of PIM software has been a nonissue. During the next

12 to 18 months, however, matters

related to the use of unmanaged stand-

alone PIMs will force IS departments

to deal with an embedded and most

likely diverse set of PIM software

tant. "It allows us to have uniform data, pull information for analysis and reporting and keep track of all potential and existing sales," Walker says.

Likewise,

Shawn Fielder, project coordinator at National Em-

bossing Co. in Stafford, Texas, was recently charged with finding a PlM that would facilitate smoother operations. Standardization, he says, is critical. "Our main objective is for information sharing between sales and programmers and programmers and programmers and production and to schedule meetings," he says.

While standardizing on a PIM is a given for Fielder, meeting everyone's needs with a single product isn't easy. "Each group of users has different needs or demands on functionality, however, there must be compromise," he says.

Managers who have already standardized say that no single PIM product will do everything you want. If the PIM provides 90% of the functionality you're looking for, buy it. The benefits of standardization outweigh any compromise.

Haber is a free-lance writer in Jamaica Plain, Mass.

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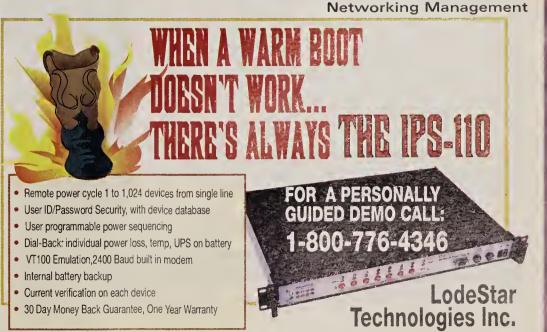
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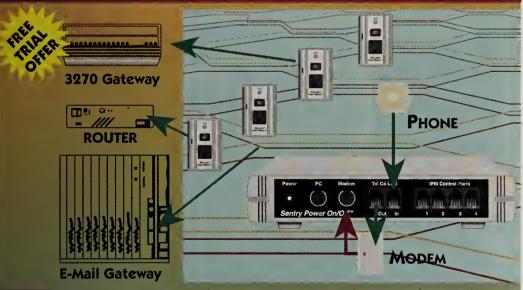
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To receive a copy of the RFI interested firms should contact Barbara Kearse, Project Director, Management Engineering, Mayor's Office of Contracts by telephone at (212) 788-0088, or by FAX at (212) 788-0049. Submissions are due no later than December 30, 1994 at 5:00 P.M., hand delivered or addressed to



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#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** FOR A JAIL HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, MEDICAL SERVICES IS ISSUING A "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS" (RFP) TO OUALIFIED VENDORS TO PERFORM A STRATEGY AND ANALYSIS STUDY, AND SUBSEQUENTLY DESIGN OR INTEGRATE AND IMPLEMENT A JAIL HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM. THE "SYSTEM" WILL BE UTILIZED AT THE VARIOUS JAIL FACILITIES WHERE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S, MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDES INPATIENT AND/OR OUTPA-

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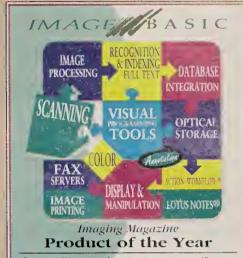
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The Home Depot,Inc 91
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The Mathworks1
The New England4
The Santa Cruz Operation6
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The Smaby Group, Inc

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### Industry Almanac

## Trying to stay in good form

Wall Street analysts say business communications software maker **Delrina Corp**. (**DENAF**) is in good shape to face some upcoming challenges to its current lead in its market sector.

According to Lisa Thompson, an analyst at Punk, Ziegal & Knoell in New York, Microsoft Corp.'s inclusion of a fax feature in Windows 95, the next version of Windows, proved to be a blow to Delrina's stock. But the company's reputation is a solid one that will hold it in good stead against the competition, she said.

"Reviews of Microsoft's beta version suggest the fax fcature is not going to be nearly as good as Delrina's WinFax," Thompson said. "And even if it is, they still have a strong user base who will likely want to upgrade."

Flexibility is another factor in Delrina's favor. "Their software can work with a variety of other programs. But competitors like Microsoft offer form programs, for example, that work only with their own product lines," Thompson noted.

Delrina has also successfully tackled the consumer retail market and plans to bring its Perform for Windows form product there soon, Thompson said. "There's virtually no competition for them in this segment. They are extremely good at bringing products to the mass market," she said.

Because the blow from Microsoft's announcement pushed Delrina's stock price down, Thompson said now is a good time to invest in the company. "This company is growing at over 100% a year. It isn't going to disappear any time soon," she said. — Erin Callaway



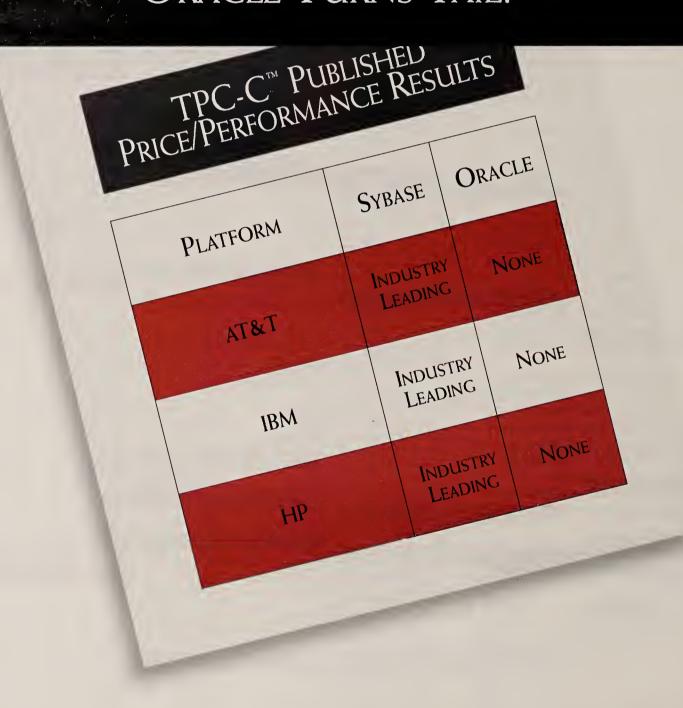
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## "LOOK. IN HEAD-TO-HEAD PRICE/PERFORMANCE, ORACLE TURNS TAIL."



The results are clear: while Sybase has mastered real-world performance, Oracle has mastered the art of omission. It's no wonder Oracle has avoided head-to-head TPC-C competition. In another real-world benchmark on Sun, Sybase more than doubled Oracle's published back-up and restore rate — while maintaining high throughput for OLTP and decision support. For the hard numbers on mixed-load performance, call 1-800-SYBASE-1, ext. 6410.



## Intel policy incites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decision not to go public with the Pentium flaw when the company discovered it several months ago, users seemed particularly riled over the following:

- Intel's perceived hesitancy to replace buggy chips for all those who want new ones.
- Continued uncertainty about Intel's timetable for volume delivery of redesigned Pentium chips.

#### Strength in numbers

"If we don't get replacements for our chips, we are thinking of pooling our resources and filing a general class-action lawsuit against the company" for product liability and misrepresentation, said Randal Martines, president of Platform Systems Corp., a consultancy in Washington. Computerworld encountered at least eight other users on the Internet who said they would be willing to join an action against Intel if their chips were not unconditionally replaced.

Like most users who have complained about the bug, Martines contends that Intel should replace flawed chips without users having to prove their applications warrant such a replacement.

While noting that Intel is correct in asserting that users are very unlikely to encounter the bug, Cleve Moler, a scientist at The Mathworks in Natick, Mass., said the issue at hand is "a lack of confidence" in the product.

Despite similar sentiments from other users on the Internet and threats to take Intel to court if it does not replace the buggy chips, most industry observers say such efforts will be hard to push.

"You can only sue the person you have a contractual obligation with," said Esther Roditti, editor of "Computer Law and Tax Reports," a newsletter in New York. Because systems vendors, and not Intel, sell the chips to end users, no direct relationship exists between Intel and the consumer, Roditti said.

A lot depends on the contracts and warranties Intel has in place with hardware vendors, Roditti maintained. "It will be very unusual for [a company like Intel] not to have drawn up warranties that protect it in such cases," she said.

However, Intel's failure to disclose details of the flaw could open it to possible action on grounds of misrepresentation and fraud, Roditti conceded.

"If it can be shown that Intel had a positive obligation within a reasonable time frame" to inform customers, users could have a cause of action in tort, she said.

Intel, meanwhile, said it is keeping all communications lines open with its customers. Last week, apart from the fax-back services and toll-free help lines it established, the company added another site on the Internet where users could gripe about their Pentium-related problems, an Intel spokeswoman said.

While many Internet users continued to rage at Intel for its apparent lack of responsiveness to the situation, many other users who had reached the company by late last week claimed they were satisfied with its actions.

For instance, one user, who uses a Pentium-based system to calculate doses of medicine for patients, claimed Intel contacted her after seeing her posting on the In-

"The Intel representative said that we — I guess Intel - would not want to expose patients to this risk at all. She put me on the list for a new processor immediately. I was stunned after reading all the posts on the 'net about being denied a new processor," she said.

Intel is also offering a lifetime guarantee on the processor so users who need to handle huge math computations in the future will be able to replace the chip.

Analysts said they do not expect redesigned chips to ship in volume until at least the second quarter of 1995.

Meanwhile, hardware vendors maintained that the controversy has not affected sales of Pentium systems. According to both Dell Computer Corp. and Gateway 2000, Inc. — the current market leaders in Pentium shipments — there has been no negative impact on demand as a result of the flaw, so far. Most vendors have opened up telephone lines and are qualifying customers for replacements [CW, Dec. 5].

However, several users complained that despite publie stances, vendors were asking them to contact Intel directly.

### IBM romances

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even with discounts of up to 50% that IBM has offered since spring on both hardware and software.

IBM also has quietly started negotiating special deals with individual software vendors. Josh Bersin, director of IBM and PowerPC platforms at Sybase, Inc. in Emeryville, Calif., said Sybase and IBM are close to finalizing an agreement to port the development libraries for Sybase's System 10 database to MVS. Included will be price breaks on mainframe equipment beyond IBM's normal discounts for developers, he added.

"Even at 50% off, [mainframe hardware and software] is basically priced for a bank with 1,000 terminals attached, not for 12 programmers writing software," Bersin said.

PeopleSoft, Inc. in Walnut Creek, Calif., is also talking with IBM about ways to cut what it pays a mainframe service bureau for its MVS development work. "We want to cut our cost of doing business in that market," said Frank Strelau, director of channel development at PeopleSoft.

#### Ante up

The issue is a critical one for IBM. The computer giant could be saddled with "a going out of business strategy" for the mainframe unless it can win over Unix application vendors to help it find new client/server customer blood, said Charlie Burns, an analyst at Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn.

"The ante to play in the [client/

server] game is new applications," Burns said.

IBM's new CMOS-based parallel mainframes "could be departmental machines, but there's nothing to run on them," Burns said. "If that doesn't change, there will be no or very little long-term growth for the System/390."

#### How to win users

Joyce Young, a director at Tellabs, Inc., a maker of telecommunication equipment in Lisle, Ill., said getting Unix applications ported to MVS would make the mainframe more believable as a client/server engine — at least to traditional System/390 users.

"There's a lot of concern about the ability of [Unix] platforms to support large, complex applications,"Young noted.

Paul Carroll, head of software vendor relations at IBM's Large Scale Computing Division, would not comment about the plans for the System/390 processor. But he said IBM hopes to "drastically resolve" the cost disparities between mainframe and Unix development within six months.

Even so, software vendors were not immediately bowled over. The board-level processor could be useful for testing functionality, 'but someone like us needs the genuine mainframe article to fully exploit our software," said Louis Selincourt, director of MVS development at Oracle Corp.

"For the typical Unix application vendor, the cost is going to have to come down dramatically," said Gary Bloom, a vice president at Oracle. "Everything is priced substantially higher in the MVS marketplace than it is in Unix."

### **Mail 3.2**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Microsoft last year had the rapt attention of the Fortune 1,000 companies," said David Ferris, president of Ferris Networks in San Francisco. Even companies with large Lotus Development Corp. CC:Mail installations were looking at Exchange, he said. Now people are wondering whether they will have to wait for Exchange like they did for Windows, he added.

"If Exchange is delayed to meet more of my requirements, it is a good thing," said a user at a large pharmaceutical company, who asked not to be identified. "However, we will probably

implement another vendor's product in the meantime but use Microsoft Mail on the desktop." Other possibilities include Digital Equipment Corp.'s Mail-Works or Hewlett-Packard Co.'s Open-Mail.

"I have been disappointed on the timeline with Exchange and feel it's not been made a priority," added a user at a major food products company who also asked not to be named. "I look forward to the robustness and functionality, but it is a long time coming. If we had the luxury to switch, we would."

#### Fewer features

Not only is the wait potentially damaging, but Microsoft also seems to be paring down Exchange's features list, said Nina Burns, president of Creative Networks in Palo Alto, Calif.

The closer we get, the less functionality [Exchange] has. [Microsoft] keeps plugging it with gateways and third-party products," Burns said. For example, Microsoft had indicated earlier that it would offer native Simple Mail Transport Protocol support; now that support will come through gateways.

At the American Bar Association in Chicago, an upgrade to Exchange will depend "on what it brings us," said Arthur Fong, PC LAN manager at the legal association. "We haven't seen a lot of information about Exchange," he added.

Additionally, users are worried about how the product will work in their existing environments. With Exchange, it will be like "going into a brand new world," said Tim Dawes, an information systems manager at London Life Insurance Co. in London, Canada. "We will have to do the same type of rollout as we did with [LANbased] E-mail," he said.

#### Current woes are priority

For Cheryl Wogahn, Microsoft Mail administrator at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., the Exchange server is still an unknown quantity that she has heard little or nothing about. Her more immediate concerns, she said, are current glitches with Microsoft Mail that bedevil her 600 users. For example, Wogahn said mes-

sages are sometimes misdelivered, and directories have become corrupted when Versions 3.0 and 3.2 are both running in the same directory.

Users also wonder whether Microsoft's flavor of X.500 will interoperate with other versions from Digital or HP. "Will they support the protocols that

other major X.500 players support, or will 1 need some custom programming?" wondered the user at the pharmaceutical company. "They say there will be a way to work around it, but I don't want a workaround."

Greg Lobdell, a Microsoft group product manager, said although X.500 initially will not interoperate with directory services from other players, it will have the directory import function, and subsequent releases will provide more interoperability. He also noted that while the initial training costs for Exchange will be high, the ultimate cost of ownership should be lower than other platforms.

A user at a financial management company said he is concerned about having to administer Exchange, which runs on NT, in a Novell, Inc. NetWare environment. Although Microsoft has said administration of Exchange will be much less difficult than that of Microsoft Mail 3.2, there is always some concern about the vendor's "ability to make a reliable product," the user said.



## Cyber self-help

**Having problems** communicating with people? You could seek help from a professional, but now all you have to do is log on to your computer for self-help made easy. Me2 is a program designed to help users realize the inborn power of their minds to improve their personal and professional relationships. This ain't no Freud, but the software was developed in conjunction with licensed psychologists. And just like a professional, it even promises to guarantee user privacy - with a password, of course. If you're lucky, your computer won't charge you \$80 for a

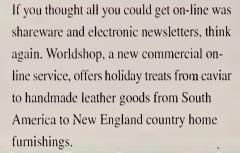
50-minute session.

While you're contemplating what the information superhighway can do for your business, why not just crack open a cold one, put your feet up and log on to budweiser.com.? This latest addition to the Internet is sure to offer the utmost in riveting corporate conversation.

## **Merger Maria**

Has Microsoft gone merger-mad? The anonymous author of a phony press release seems to think so. According to the release, Microsoft and the Vatican announced that the software giant will acquire the Roman Catholic Church. If the deal goes through, it will be the first time a computer software company has acquired a major world religion.

r a la Internet



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#### Inside Lines

#### Unix royalty dispute remains hush-hush

If the rumors are true that Microsoft is trying to get rival Novell to pay double the royalties on each copy of UnixWare it sells, neither of the parties are talking. Reports have been circulating that Microsoft wants to boost royalties on UnixWare on Intel from \$10 to \$20. A Microsoft spokeswoman denied that last week, saying, "We are not yet in negotiations with Novell right now over UnixWare on Intel at this time." Novell was equally cryptic, though less ridiculous, calling the whole thing "a confidential business matter."

#### Lotus paring down the message

Lotus is expected this week to announce a pared-down version of its Lotus Communications Server (LCS), which will be decoupled from Notes. While this will not affect users in pure CC: Mail or Notes environments, it will affect those with both systems. Those folks will need two servers — CC:Mail and Notes — in a single location; LCS required only one. Also, the company is reportedly going to fish or cut bait on the nature of CC:Mail. Is it an interface? A filesharing architecture? A floor wax perhaps?

#### Pounding the 'Pad for truth and justice

Did anybody notice that Judge Lance Ito changed notebook computers recently? O. J. Simpson's trial judge apparently lost a file from his Toshiba Satellite and went on a rampage of his own, which included calling IBM. The folks in Blueland were more than happy to oblige the judge, allowing him to step to the front of the ThinkPad line and buy a ThinkPad 750C. In other celebrity notes, radio personality Howard Stern is a ThinkPad user (and has been seolded for his language on IBM's ThinkPad forum on CompuServe). Even the pope is rumored to have pounded on the 'Pad.

#### Don't hold your breath for NetWare 3.2

Users hoping for an optimized 3.2 release of NetWare that contains nearly all the features in NetWare 4.x — except the Directory Services capability — are in for a disappointment. Richard King, executive vice president of the NetWare Systems Group, last week said "there will be no NetWare 3.2." King also denied that Novell will shelve its Virtual Loadable Modules for clients in favor of the older NetX client shells.

#### Product, yes; merger, nah

Oracle's much-hyped but little-seen Project X is due to be unveiled Jan. 17, according to a source at Oracle. The single-user database and development tool kit, to be renamed Personal Oracle, will be "aggressively priced" to compete head-to-head with Powersoft's PowerBuilder and Microsoft's Visual Basic. Meanwhile, CEO Larry Ellison last week denied rumors that Oracle is about to buy Lotus. The talk probably started when he and Lotus CEO Jim Manzi dined together a few months ago. At that time, they "joked" about a possible merger, which Ellison then mentioned to the press. Whoops.

#### But where's the partridge in a parallel tree?

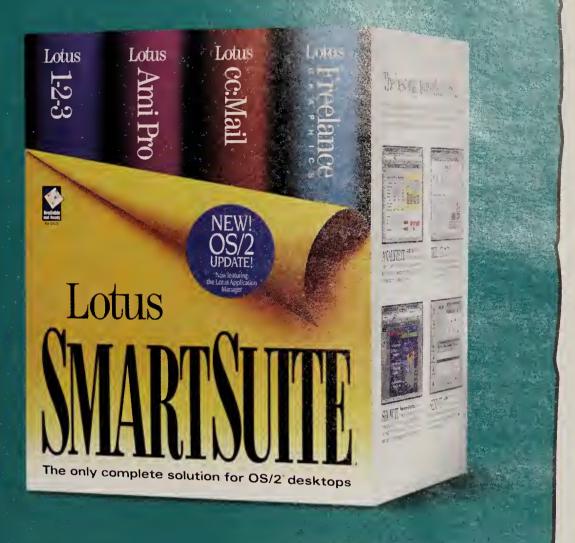
Mainframe Oracle users got an early Christmas present with the release of Oracle 7.1 for MVS. But maybe they weren't good enough for goodness' sake, because Oracle will not be wrapping full parallel support into the MVS version of the database until the second quarter of 1995. The software out now can split queries across multiple processors in a single system. Still to come is a Parallel Server Option that will let multiple MVS machines access a common database cache via IBM's mainframe coupling facility.

First came the Gross Recreational Vehieles. Then eame Cabletron Systems, Inc. with a tidy \$1.2 million spent on developing the LANVAN. The internetworking giant has rolled out three 18-wheelers equipped with all the eompany's latest gear for multimedia presentations and "hands-on" demos at customer sites. But if print vehicles are your preference, give Computerworld a call about news items or tips. Our 24-hour voice-mail tip line is (508) 820-8555 and our toll-free number is (800) 343-6474. News editor Maryfran Johnson ean be reached by phone at (508) 820-8179, via the Internet at mjohnson@cw.eom or through MCI Mail at 590-8017.

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